

Now, WeVision

*Definition of vision: the ability to think about
or plan the future with imagination or wisdom*

Today, across America, there are millions of parents with a cup of coffee and a dream
Their babies off to school perhaps, or with their grandma down the street
If they're lucky, maybe they are still tucked away and fast asleep

But their parents are awake
How do you sleep, when the American dream
is what keeps you up at night?

You see, I know many people who want to be parents

- I know even more that can't afford to be.

Who look at their time and money
and realize they are constantly out of both
There are 40 hours in a workweek,
Many people work multiple jobs,
It is thousands of dollars to rent, it is thousands of dollars to own,
Most folks live paycheck to paycheck

So what if I told you a story, of a parent
that has two children and a crisis, but doesn't have PTO?
Would you know how the story goes next?
How the FMLA would protect the job, but not the apartment?
How quickly do we realize, that unpaid leave
is not helpful to someone in poverty?
What is a policy that's blind to privilege?
As ironic as saying, "No child left behind!"
when families make up a third of the houseless population.

But this would not be the first time parents dueled with disparity

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When we saw family structures fractured by famine and war
Kids who should have been playing catch, caught up
in economic catastrophe. You can disagree,
but I don't know a Great(er) Depression
than not being able to feed your children

But that wasn't the first time either

Pick a decade and demographic
I'll show you a child who suffered
at the hands of someone's silence
Hungry children refused at school lunch
Immigrant teens torn away at borders
Black babies bought on auction blocks

Look how often children get left at the crossroads of intersection

And still, for every century you show me a loss, I will show you someone who loved.
We were not the first to hold our lineage so close, we were willing to change the legislation

So here's to the family leave and the tax credits
To publicly funded programs
Here's to Nana's and aunties
To community support
Mothers, fathers, and trusted adults
Here's to the educators and the activists
Everyone that has shown us, you cannot look forward to a future you can not imagine

So may WeVision, so bright
that instead of despair we choose determination.
That in the face of childcare deserts, we smile,
knowing the things seed money can sprout.
Let us work for what we do not see

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When we say that WeVision, we're saying what we're willing
to do to see a better world than the one that's in front of us

If we were to linger on the memories, how many lineages
would we find of people who loved their children so much
that they were willing to build a world they never got to touch?
We have done this before. We will do it again.

This is not the first time, and it won't be the last

Where we hoped, and we loved, and we learned
We Visioned
Now, it is our time to build.