All of Us or None is a grassroots movement fighting to restore the human and civil rights of formerly and currently incarcerated people. We hope our stories — be they of triumph and success or hardship and struggle — expand society’s narrow vision of incarcerated people and help tear down the barriers to reentry that keep so many chained beyond prison walls.

Feature

The Modern Civil Rights Movement is Here

Inside This Issue...

The INjustice System

Our Stories

Chapter Highlights
Over the last several weeks a number of my comrades have pointed out that I keep mispronouncing the name of the most deadly virus human beings have encountered in over 100 years. It wasn’t that I could not read or pronounce coronavirus or COVID-19. I just kept butchering the name or calling it something completely different. It took me a long time to figure out what was causing me so much difficulty, why I was subconsciously resisting.

Late one night while trying to escape cable news, it hit me: When I left prison, I took with me a trauma that is triggered by certain words, reminding me of events that caused me pain.

In order to slow that spread of the coronavirus, members of the media repeatedly suggest the need to be placed on “lockdown” or the need to “isolate.” “Lockdown,” to me, is something barked at you by prison guards following racially associated violence. If you were a member of a racial group, it didn’t matter if you were involved or not. You were going to be subject to restrictive movement and confined to very small cells; punishment based on skin color.

“Isolation” would soon follow for people in prison identified as having too much influence or classified as too political or as a member of a gang. Again, it really didn’t matter if any of those things were true.

Over the last several weeks there has been talk about hospitals being overwhelmed by critically ill people. In some areas, protocols are being discussed about who is worthy to access ventilators.

I wish I had the ability to ignore my lived experience. But I believe that there is also a protocol that allows them to leave people in prison to die in an emergency. I wish I was able to ignore how they left some prisoners locked in the cells at San Quentin, San Francisco County Jail, Santa Rita and Dublin Federal Prison after the Loma Prieta earthquake. Or how incarcerated people were left standing with water up to their necks during Hurricane Katrina. Will people locked in cages be seriously considered as worthy at the height of this pandemic? Who will be considered deserving and who will be considered undeserving?
Inside The Issue

Feature Story
A web of formerly incarcerated people stretches across the country, gaining strength in numbers and strategizing ways to amend years-long injustices. Page 6

Spotlight
Every month, we will profile the life of a formerly incarcerated person, the hardships they had to overcome and what they’ve done with their freedom. This month, we interviewed Succati, a housing advocate. Page 4

The INjustice System
The effect of the coronavirus pandemic on individuals incarcerated in the U.S. has shed light on the vulnerability of this population, the abysmal conditions in which they are kept, and the incapability of officials to see and treat them as human beings. We tracked local, state and federal response to the pandemic as it pertained to incarcerated persons. We found the idea of decarceration was so foreign, most jurisdictions didn’t act until it was far too late. Page 8

Coming Home
Michael spent almost 30 years incarcerated. His transition home has been relatively smooth transition thanks to his support team. Michael shares his reentry journey in this month’s “Coming Home” segment. Plus, a list of resources for directly and system-impacted people. Page 15

Mail Bag
An incarcerated woman writes about the conditions in Sacramento County jail, as anxiety about coronavirus among incarcerated individuals begins to build. Page 9

Chapter Highlights
Several California AOUON Chapters traveled to Sacramento last month to protest Life Without Parole, support the Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition, and talk with lawmakers about the needs of our community. Policy fellow, and former LWOP prisoner, Dejohnette Shoemaker writes about her experience. Plus, criminal justice bills we’re watching across the country and updates from our national chapters. Pages 8-14
Upon returning home from a five-year stint in prison, Succatti was faced with the harsh reality that her conviction would impede her ability to find safe housing for herself and her family. Now she fights for housing rights for all individuals with a conviction history.

Photo credit: Mark Fujiwara/LSPC

It's a 30-hour drive from McPherson Unit, the women’s prison in Arkansas, to Sacramento, where Succatti’s mother and two older children were awaiting her arrival after five years inside.

After a 24-hour delay because of wildfires in Colorado and bathroom breaks only at tourist rest stops with inflated prices, Succatti stepped off the bus in Sacramento with about half of the $200 gate money she'd be given when she left. Luckily, her family owned the property where her mother lived and she was able to bunk in until she could get on her feet.

It was a difficult transition, Succatti said. It was hard to be around groups of people, especially men, “because you’re conditioned not to be.”

She was also anxious to find her own place, especially since her youngest child, who was just a baby when she was locked up, was still in Oakland with her ex.

But the search for housing was over almost before it began. Succatti applied to rent an apartment in Sacramento and was quickly rebuffed.

“Once they found my record, I was done,” she recalled.

She ended up moving in with her child’s father in Oakland with her two older kids and found a job in property management. That’s when her understanding of housing discrimination expanded.

“I started realizing I’d have to discriminate against people,” she said. “Not just people of color, but anyone who wasn’t in, or wasn’t perceived to be in, the socio-economic class of people in the area.”

Succatti remembers having to turn down an applicant for an apartment at one of downtown Oakland’s new luxury complexes. The young woman ticked all the boxes of a good tenant. She had an income and good credit. But she also had a conviction history: A marijuana charge. “Weed is legal in this state, but I still had to tell her, ‘You can’t live here,’” Succatti recalled.

She also remembers how staff at the complex treated her non-white clients, often ignoring them or even treating them disrespectfully.

“If you are a black person walking into that apartment complex, no one is getting up to help you,” Succatti said. “They just assume if you’re not white you can’t afford it.”

But, as she soon discovered, the problem went far beyond race. Most landlords and property managers, for example, require a tenant’s income to
The deadline for self-response to the 2020 census has been extended to July 31. Contact your local chapter organizers for help filling yours out!
The Modern Civil Rights Movement

The next generation rises up against slavery’s latest incarnation

In rooms across the country, a population forgotten by most has been gathering, sharing their experiences, paying homage to freedom fighters of the past, and planning for their own moment in history.

One recent Thursday night in Oakland, Dorsey Nunn, a founding member of All of Us or None, stood up to address the crowd of formerly incarcerated men and women and their allies. Dorsey, who also spent years behind bars, implored them not to think about what they would have done if they had been alive for the 20th century civil rights movement.

Instead, he said, “Ask yourselves, ‘what am I doing in this movement? What are you doing right now to free the oppressed, to make sure our civil rights are restored?’”

The modern civil rights movement is a revolutionary response to the evolution of slavery, catalyzed in large by Michelle Alexander’s seminal 2010 book, “The New Jim Crow.” It was a comparison that, until then, had only been explored through lived experiences. And those that had been through it themselves were so systematically broken down by isolation, confinement and mistreatment that they hadn’t been able to put a name to their oppressor.

Slavery in America was such a profound atrocity that its impact on our collective consciousness can still be felt. It’s a brokenness that reverberates in the public discourse when we talk about “justice” and echoes in the cell blocks of the U.S. prison system.

It is a brokenness that allows us to punish someone for killing by killing them. It allows us to drive by sprawling complexes of barbed wire, dark walls and armed towers without batting an eye. It allows us to believe that by caging millions of men and women we will somehow find freedom. It allows people to buy into the fantasy that slavery was a thing of the past.

Slavery was, at its core, the constant dehumanization of Blacks, making it, in no uncertain terms, a crime against humanity. The link to today’s prison system, in this sense, is unmistakable. To say that today’s prisoner is dehumanized is not a radical statement: When you’re incarcerated you have a number, not a name. You have a job, but not an income. You have a neighbor, but you’re denied communication. You have a voice, but you may be thrown in solitary for trying to use it.

Isolation itself is a way to break one’s humanity, making an individual feel excised from society, left to rot in a dark hole.

No, slavery is alive and well behind the walls of correctional facilities. It has been fortified with steel bars and brick walls. It has been protected with barbed wire and clever legalese.

It’s reinforced by the Supreme Court’s dependency on precedent, ensuring the continuation of rulings made during a time when African
Americans were still seen as members of a lower racial caste. *Ruffin v. Commonwealth* (1871) said by committing a crime—defined in large part by Black Codes at the time—a person forfeits his civil rights, that he becomes a “slave of the State,” that his property should be “administered like that of a dead man.”

One hundred fifty years after *Ruffin*, we haven’t even levelled the playing field: The justices in *Ruffin* at least mention an end to the “convict” status (the completion of one’s sentence). Today, we see the idea of “time served” is a fallacy: Formerly incarcerated individuals have barriers to employment, housing, licensing, schooling and voting, sometimes decades after they are released from prison.

This is the moment that Dorsey was commanding his comrades seize on: A moment where the subtle fractures of slavery and racism on the criminal justice system have opened into a cavernous void swallowing millions of people of color into the chasm of incarceration. It is a moment where the slavery exemption—justifying slavery or involuntary servitude as a punishment for those who commit crimes—is still in play in the U.S. Constitution and the constitutions of 22 states.

But justice is in reach, and there is one element of justice that can be enacted immediately: Truth-telling. Through oral histories and documentation of lived experiences dealing with oppression and bias, the movement builds its case for an equitable and just society. Unlike the counter movement—created with subtle and indirect language like “superpredator” and “tough on crime” and “inner city”—the modern civil rights movement is out in the open, strategic but loud. Its members have been through too much to mince words. They say it how it is, owning what they know to be true.

These stories are essential to ensure that when the system throws someone in a dungeon, leaving them to be forgotten, there is a brother or sister on the outside amplifying their humanity and their voice. For this reason, it’s essential that individuals impacted directly and systemically by mass incarceration are at the front of this movement.

Like many movements, this one is fueled by a variety of images. It is the fists of marchers in Ferguson, Missouri. It is the ICE detainees refusing meals to protest their conditions. It is the man testifying to a lawmaker he doesn’t have the power to vote for or against. It is the mothers occupying vacant homes to provide transitional housing for the thousands of sons and daughters that end up homeless because they are denied access to addiction treatment or fair housing.

And while the people in these images may seem distinct and separate from one another, they are connected by a...
A cough echoes through the narrow halls of a cellblock. Ricocheting off the concrete walls, it sends a wave of panic through the bodies trapped inside. No one knows exactly what the sickness is, compounding its growing reign of terror.

Dorsey Nunn, who was incarcerated in San Quentin during a flu epidemic, described the spread of disease behind bars in a recent letter to the members of All of Us or None:

“Think of an airplane hangar,” Dorsey wrote, “within which a five-story wall of 4½ x 10-foot cells stretches hundreds of feet long, caging hundreds of fathers, brothers, and sons. You hear the man at the far end of the block and a couple levels down start coughing hard. He’s blowing his nose, coughing up phlegm, and spitting it out. Hopefully into the toilet. Then the cat next to him starts coughing. Then the person above that one. Then the CO walking the tier coughing hard while passing every cell. Every day, every hour, you can hear the sickness coming towards you. And there’s not a damned thing you can do about it.”

Dorsey was incarcerated decades ago, but this same scene is playing out in real time across the U.S. as the country’s system of mass incarceration grapples with the new coronavirus. With the prison population booming to more than two million men and women, the sound of sickness during a pandemic must be deafening.

People languishing in county jails are particularly unprotected. As you’ll read in this month’s “Mail Bag,” these facilities are often overcrowded, unsanitary and perfect incubators for disease. Instead, local, state and federal officials have been rolling out incomplete and insufficient policies to save face. These policies have led to 648 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus inside the country’s jails and prisons, as of April 1. That includes 299 prisoners and 349 staff members.

According to data collected by Legal Aid, the spread is increasing seven times as fast in city jails than in the rest of the population. On Rikers Island, the primary jail complex for New York City, the number of prisoners testing positive for coronavirus jumped from 52 on March 24 to 75 on March 25. The number of infected employees increased from 7 to 37 in the same time span. By the end of the month, there were nearly 200 confirmed cases in this facility alone. Most prison contraband gets in mainly through the staff, not visitors who are screened and restricted. And that’s exactly what is beginning to happen with the coronavirus. Employees get infected and pass it to the prison population.

By the time officials began reducing overcrowding, the number of infections was already spreading at a rapid pace and few of those released had some place to go. (Click for full timeline)
Editor's note: The author of the note featured above is a 59-year-old female who has been jailed in Sacramento since 2017. We've kept the rest of her identity anonymous as she already faces endless harassment from jail deputies. Due to the letter's length, it has been edited for brevity and written out below. No words have been changed. As a warning, the graphic nature of this letter may be triggering to some readers.

I am of Muslim faith, which I feel is highly disrespected. I'm not allowed to wear my Hijab to properly cover my hair. Instead I was provided a towel to cover my hair, “only when I'm in my cell.” This is a towel that everyone uses to bathe. I have to wear this in my cell with poor circulation. I'm not allowed a proper prayer rug. I was provided the same thing: a towel. This is very uncomfortable to have to kneel down for long periods of time to pray.

Our food is placed uncovered on the ground. In Pods West 300, 400, East 100 and in every pod whenever we're locked down. Our food sits too long on the floor. By the time you get it it's like ice and unhealthy to eat. Our TV is only on the movie channel, which Sac Direct TV controls. The nurses and some of the doctors wear masks and often tell us it's because they're getting over a cold. The jail has not provided any information about or on the coronavirus. The only way I found out was through my family and attorney. We're in our cells 22 hours a day and sometimes more. We're severely depressed. Our anxiety is extremely high. Deputies always do things deliberately to harass the inmates. And cause them unwanted stress. Long term inmates are just sitting with nothing to do and no way to relieve our daily stress. We develop high blood pressure and mental issues. We are truly treated like animals.

Today on my lunch tray I received a black bean patty which looked like a pile of black poop and to top it off...
Editor’s Note: On March 9, members of our California chapters traveled to Sacramento to attend the Sister Warrior Freedom Rally in support of directly impacted and system-impacted cis- and transgender women and girls. On the opposite side of the Capitol building, members also participated in a DROP LWOP rally. Dejohnette Shoemaker, who served 26 years on a life without the possibility of parole (LWOP) sentence, writes about her experience.

Attending the Sister Warrior Freedom and the California Coalition For Women’s Prisoners DROP LWOP rallies was a multifaceted experience for me. It was my first rally and I got to see so much of what organizers do. It was also extremely emotional and overwhelming.

I am a former LWOP, and I know all the heartache and challenges we face. I certainly wasn’t prepared to see all the posters with the faces of the sisters I’d left behind. I was hit with the same survivor’s guilt I experienced upon release.

Another set of overwhelming emotions hit when I got to see some 25 sisters whom I’ve spent the last 20-25 years incarcerated with. Sure, we kept up with each other on social media, but just to be able to embrace each other and see and hear the voices and laughter that were so familiar -- it was an experience I will never forget.

It was such an awe-inspiring day all around. These are such powerful social justice movements. I’m extremely proud to be a part of them. Once we realize that we are never really free as long as our brothers and sisters are still in chains, we will then rise up and amplify our voices and positions. We will strengthen and abolish all forms of oppression and we will not stop at one or some. It’s ALL OF US OR NONE!

AOUON New Jersey has started its own Reentry Anonymous meetings. Reentry Anonymous is a 12 step program of recovery for men and women struggling with a life destroyed by incarceration and the consequences thereafter. Contact AOUON New Jersey for more info.
Chapter Updates

Oakland (Nat.)
The Oakland chapter has been focused on ensuring directly impacted people are at the table when decisions are made about their community. They sent COVID-19 manuals to incarcerated members and demanded a comprehensive plan by CDCR and the governor surrounding incarcerated people during this pandemic. The Oakland team is excited to be working on ACA 6 to end disenfranchisement for people on parole.

Bakersfield (CA)
The Bakersfield chapter attended the March 9 launch of the Sister Warrior Freedom movement in Sacramento. Members have pushed for the implementation of an eviction moratorium due massive layoffs occurring because of the shelter-in-place order. On top of all that, the chapter completed its building renovation!

Los Angeles/Long Beach (CA)
The LA/Long Beach chapter has been focusing on census work, Measure R, the Free Zoey Bill and the Holly Mitchell campaign. Members also wrote letters to Gov. Newsom for housing resources and participated in the March 9 Drop LWOP rally.

Orange County (CA)
With instances of COVID-19 rising rapidly in SoCal, Orange County teamed up with teams in LA to demand Gov. Newsom provide a housing and reentry plan for people being released. The chapter is also continuing its 2020 Census work to ensure the community is not undercounted.

Sacramento
In response to the coronavirus, Sacramento AOUON, in collaboration with other organizers and the public defender’s office, secured release for 421 people incarcerated in the county jail. They are preparing to ask CDCR to release incarcerated people who have between three and six months left on their sentence, as well as inmates older than 60 years of age. Organizers are working with property owners to identify vacancies that can be used for emergency reentry housing.

San Bernardino (CA)
The San Bernardino chapter petitioned Gov. Newsom to expedite decarceration in light of the coronavirus. They also continue their Census 2020 work, making sure our community is adequately counted, and their earned income project, alerting members to the $27 billion in tax credits that are not being claimed because people do not know they are eligible.

Idaho
Idaho is the newest All of Us or None chapter. Members are building a foundation fast, focusing their immediate efforts on Ban the Box legislation.

Central Illinois
Building off a legislative victory last session around electronic monitoring, the Central Illinois chapter is pushing for data on whether or not this is an effective deterrent for recidivism. The chapter was instrumental in the development of the federal First Step Act, which shortened mandatory minimums for federal prisoners. Now they are campaigning for one of their comrades to come home. The “Bring Brian Back” campaign seeks the return of Brian Burnside, who is serving a life sentence under the Three Strikes law.

Louisville (KY)
The Louisville chapter has been working hard to secure voting rights for the formerly incarcerated. It has been organizing members to oppose SB 62, a “voting rights” bill that is vague and does not actually restore voting rights.

St. Louis (MO)
Before the city shut down, the St. Louis chapter traveled to the state capitol in Jefferson City talk with lawmakers about legislation being offered this session. Angela McCurry, AOUON-STL member, was offered a seat in the office of Rep. Rasheen Aldridge. The chapter is also part of the Smart Sentencing Coalition and working to promote Primary Caretaker legislation.
New Jersey

AOUON Northern New Jersey has been rolling out tons of resources. The chapter has a new website (allofusornone-northernnj.com) with information about its various initiatives. They’ve also created a pre-release manual, a mix of personal stories and resources to assist members who are nearing reentry. The chapter is also developing a post-release manual.

E. North Carolina

The Eastern North Carolina chapter is focused on fair housing policy and initiatives. Members are making sure resources are in place when people are released from prison, addressing the issue that many individuals who are released there end up homeless. They are also ensuring individuals who were displaced after Hurricane Florence have housing, as many comrades did not qualify for government assistance.

New York

With high numbers of infections in the state, AOUON New York is working with lawmakers to expedite approval of S 2144, a bill that would make inmates 55 years old immediately eligible for parole if they have served at least 15 years. Outside crisis control, the chapter continues to focus on civic engagement, educating communities about voting rights for the formerly incarcerated. They are also working with Asm. Epstein to ensure there are no carveouts in the voting rights bill on the floor (S 6821).

Durham

All of Us or None Durham is working with Color of Change and the ACLU to secure as many releases of incarcerated individuals as possible in light of the coronavirus pandemic, especially those in pretrial detention. Earlier in March, members participated in a rally for Javier Torres, a 26-year-old who was shot in the back by police officers in Raleigh.

Greater Cincinnati

AOUON helped facilitate the March 7 Pretrial Justice X Community Engagement Workshop, an education session for community members and activists that dove into the history of bail, system actor roles, engagement strategies, and the latest thinking around pretrial risk assessment tools and electronic monitoring.

San Antonio

After numerous reports of voting issues on Super Tuesday, AOUON stood alongside political candidates from both sides of the aisle and demanded a recount. The chapter, in collaboration with other advocacy groups, created a petition demanding free communications between jail and prison inmates and their families during COVID-19 and beyond.

Charlotte

The Charlotte chapter has been partnering with the Durham chapter to learn more about Participatory Defense as a tool to disrupt the criminal legal system. They’ve also partnered with the NC Community Bail Fund to launch the NC pregnancy bail fund. Members volunteer with homeless neighbors, providing them with meals and resources. They’ve also been working tirelessly to decarcerate the county jail to prevent an outbreak of coronavirus on the inside.

Eastern Washington

Wrapping up its first year, the E. Washington chapter has already had a huge impact. Members participated in a rally for no new jails and spoke at a reentry fair. Most recently, the chapter was involved in coalition letters to local jail, prison and juvenile detention officials, demanding they increase decarceration efforts and ensure access to healthcare in light of the coronavirus.

Madison

The Madison chapter launched its Free Wisconsin campaign, which seeks to bring all directly and system-impacted individuals in the state under one umbrella. As a united force, they will ensure all policy changes rolled out by non-impacted organizations go through people who are closest to the problem. Wisconsin AOUON is also working with the legislature to push through bills that limit supervision and revocation for people on parole, as well as voting rights.
**Bill Watch**

**California**

- **Voting Rights for People On Parole (McCarty) ACA 6 / AB 646** would approve the right for people on parole to vote and pave the way for a constitutional amendment which would be put to California voters in November 2020.
- **Debt Free California (Mitchell) SB 144** would build on the recent decisions of individuals counties (such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Alameda) to end the collection of certain court and probation fees by repealing state law authorizing specified criminal justice fees.

**Illinois**

- **Electronic Monitoring Reform (Peters) HB1115** would require data-driven justification for use of electronic monitoring in order to limit its use to cases where it is actually effective.
- **Right to Vote (Ford) HB4377/HJRCA33**, a bill and constitutional amendment, would ensure incarcerated people would be able to vote.

**Kentucky**

- **Formerly Incarcerated on Medica Task Force (Moser) HB421** would add one formerly incarcerated person to the Advisory Council for Medical Assistance. It would also create a Technical Advisory Committee on Persons Returning to Society from Incarceration to act in an advisory capacity.
- **Automatic Expungement (Bratcher) HB327** would automatically expunge criminal charges from a person's record if the person is acquitted or the charges are dismissed with prejudice.

**Idaho**

- **Clean Slate (Rubel and Lent) [number pending]** would allow individuals with felony convictions for nonviolent and nonsexual crimes to petition the courts to seal their public records. Individuals applying for sealed records would need to have served their whole sentence and have not reoffended in the three years following their release.

**Missouri**

- **Fresh Start Act (Koenig) SB 647** would require that no person shall be disqualified from pursuing, practicing, or engaging in any occupation for which a license is required solely or in part because of a prior conviction of a crime, unless the crime for which an applicant was convicted directly relates to the duties and responsibilities for the licensed occupation.
- **Death Penalty With Mental Illness (Hannegan) HB 1756** would prohibit the execution of any person found to have suffered from a serious mental illness at the time of the offense for which they are accused.

**New Jersey**

- **Peer Reentry Peer Support Hotline (Verrelli) A 813** would require the establishment and maintenance of a 24-hour prisoner reentry support hotline. The hotline, operated by certified peer recovery specialists, would receive and respond to calls from formerly incarcerated persons.
Bill Watch

cont.

seeking support in reentry following release from custody.

- **Prohibition on For-Profit Prisons (Verrelli)** A 816 would prohibit DOC and other public entities from contracting with for-profit, private correctional facilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New York</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fair Parole (Hoylman)</strong> S 2144 &amp; (Rivera) S497A aim to reform the parole system. S 2144 would make incarcerated people 55 years old immediately eligible for parole if they have served at least 15 years in prison. S 497A would limit the parole board’s assessment to the risk one poses to the public, rather than the seriousness of the offense for which they were convicted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Voting Rights (Parker)</strong> S 6821 would require the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, in collaboration with the state and county boards of election, to establish a program to facilitate inmate voter registration and voting.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North Carolina</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Second Chance Act (Britt, Daniel and McKissick)</strong> H 874 would set up automatic expungement for people who are found not guilty or have charges against them dismissed after July 1, 2020, and allow people to petition for the expunction of nonviolent misdemeanor and felony charges after a period of good behavior.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wisconsin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parole Eligibility (Goyke)</strong> AB 830 would expand existing earned release options for individuals who complete alcohol or drug addiction treatment and add an option for inmates who complete an educational, vocational, or other qualifying training program. The bill would also require DOC to evaluate and provide possible alternatives to prison for those in the state’s elderly inmate population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expungement of Criminal Court Records (Goyke)</strong> AB 1008 creates a procedure to expunge the records of a criminal case that did not result in a conviction. Under the bill, if a person is charged with a misdemeanor or certain traffic violations but the person is acquitted or the charges are dismissed, the court must order that the record of the case be expunged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Compliance Credit (Goyke)</strong> AB 832 would create a compliance credit to incentivize the completion of programming by creating avenues toward an early discharge from supervision for some individuals.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LSPC/AOUON Policy Manager Ken Oliver with Asm. Reggie Jones-Sawyer in his legislative office. *Photo credit: Paula Lehman-Ewing*
In the summer of 1992, I turned 17 years old and shortly thereafter I was arrested and charged with two counts of murder-robbery. I was tried, convicted, and sentenced to two consecutive terms of LIFE WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE, and I would remain in continuous custody for the next 27.5 years.

I walked out of prison on February 27th, 2020 grateful and full of hope. I received the $200.00 gate-money and a short ride to the front of the prison where my wife and 79-year-old godmother had been waiting for me for over 7 hours.

Since then I have had very little difficulty getting adjusted to my new surroundings. This is due in large part to my amazing support system. I have a team! Without it my journey would be far more difficult.

I was released on a Thursday and went to the DMV that following Monday to apply for my California I.D. A few days later, my wife went and applied for my social security card online. It took about two weeks for me to receive both my I.D. and social security card. Now that I have my documents, I can officially start to apply for jobs.

My journey so far has been relatively smooth, but that doesn't mean that I won't experience difficulties in the future. What I realize is that having a strong support network makes all the difference for someone returning to society after almost 30 years of incarceration.

I have resources that help me on a daily basis that the average formerly incarcerated person does not. This is what makes the biggest difference for someone in my position: having continuous resources.

Every day I have new challenges and demands that I must meet, and if I didn't have support then those challenges and demands would cause me a lot of stress. For example, I don’t have to worry about how to get from place to place on my own, or rush to find a job in order to support myself. I don’t have to worry about where I’m going to live when I leave transitional housing. I have the necessary help that I need in all of those areas and this gives me the opportunity to acclimate at my own pace.

I didn’t know this prior to my release, but this is exactly what formerly incarcerated people need. Continuous resources!
April 2020

trying to contain viral wildfires it has already ignited within the walls of facilities all over the country.

When the first coronavirus-related fatality in the U.S. was reported February 29, the immediate reaction from most states was to suspend personal visitation. The first was Nevada, which barred visitors starting March 5. At that time, advocates were already insisting on decarceration as the only way to keep the prison and jail populations, as well as the public, safe from a massive outbreak. In Indiana, more than 100 advocates petitioned the governor to release “aging and infirm” people. The next day, Indiana suspended personal visits.

In recent weeks, judges have begun to issue court orders forcing decarceration. While that’s a promising first step toward improving health and safety, without a reentry plan vulnerable individuals may have nowhere to go.

Many of them will end up homeless, further exacerbating the spread among the public at large. Whether they die in a street or in a cell, they’re still dying.

Decisions made with input from directly impacted individuals lead to the kind of missteps taken by New York, the kind of missteps that leave a trail of bodies and broken families. This kind of cruelty and neglect from corrections departments is unacceptable.

All of Us or None has been fighting to have a seat at the decision-making table for over a decade. The organization was built on the foundational belief that those closest to the problem are closest to the solution. A politician may understand how a prison works on paper, but our members know what it’s like to be on the inside when an earthquake hits: protocols are broken and detainees are left in cages while the walls literally begin to cave in around them. An attorney may believe that the problem is solved once the cage door swings open. But our members know the barriers to reentry are high and that, at a point, it’s safer to be locked up than on the street: At least you’re indoors getting fed.

These experiences are easily overlooked when they are not lived. We want our comrades and their families to know that all 26 All of Us or None chapters are working in some way to secure immediate and safe releases for those trapped inside during this pandemic. Because of the credibility we’ve earned with lawmakers and other advocacy groups, hundreds of incarcerated individuals have been released. We’re on the frontlines of finding and securing transitional housing for those who need it. For those who are still incarcerated, we’re mailing petitions for release and providing safety manuals specific to preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus. These manuals are also available on our website for those who have access.

prisonerswithchildren.org/coronavirus/

Nelson Mandela -- a man who was no stranger to health scares while incarcerated -- once said, “A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.” This takes on new meaning in a time like this. If vulnerable populations are left exposed simply because some people believe they don’t deserve saving, then we, as a society, should reconsider what it means to be criminal.

the soup was black bean soup (with bugs in it).

We’re placed in cells with people who have positive TB tests. The nurse reads the test through a closed cell door. We’re housed with people with severe mental illness, with people severely detoxing from drugs and alcohol. They won’t shower or clean up their throw up, urine or poop. We have to clean up behind them.

This jail changes you as a person.

Three people have died in my pod alone since I’ve been here. Pregnant women go without medical treatment. I complained about the death of an inmate and as a result I’ve been tormented, harassed and written up. In the Ad Seg Pod, they house transgenders, mentally ill, disciplinary inmates and treat them poorly. They rarely receive dayroom. Their food is placed on the floor uncovered. The slot on their door is filthy and this is where their food has to pass thru.

The clothes we wear, we have to sleep in and only change once a week, including underwear. I’ve only seen underwear exchange twice a week 2 times since I’ve been here. We get yeast infections because we wear the same clothes for long periods of time. We have no clock. I’ve had the same shoes for 3 years. They don’t change them or provide more. My ankles and feet hurt. I have back issues, carpal tunnel, and receive no treatment.

Please hear our cry for help. No one is told anything about the coronavirus. We need help.

Coronavirus Resources
SUPPORTING DIRECTLY AND SYSTEM-IMPACTED PEOPLE DURING CRISIS
https://www.beyond-prisons.com/covid19

SAFETY MANUALS FOR INDIVIDUALS IN STATE, FEDERAL AND CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
prisonerswithchildren.org/Coronavirus

COVID-19 MUTUAL AID (NEWARK, NJ)
https://www.allofusornone-northernnj.com/covid-19-newark-mutual-aid
building undercurrent generated from spots just like the one in Oakland where Dorsey meets his comrades every month. They come together on capitol lawns and on legislative floors, giving testimony and demanding change.

Their tireless efforts have impacted the lives of thousands. Their stories about the harms of felony disenfranchisement led to an overwhelming victory in the 2018 Florida elections, with two-thirds of voters choosing to restore voting rights to individuals with a record. Similar bills are circulating legislative bodies in California, Illinois and New York.

Also in 2018, Colorado voters approved Amendment A, which removed the slavery exemption from the state constitution. This November, removal of the slavery exemption will be on ballots in Nebraska, Arkansas, Utah and Minnesota.

These policy changes set the stage for the revolution, but they are not front and center. The movement aims higher. It aims to force a societal awakening about the role our nation’s past plays in our present.

In 2003, Brown University commissioned a steering committee to examine the school’s history as it pertained to the use of slaves. The committee described “crimes against humanity” as such: “Crimes against humanity are not simply random acts of carnage. Rather they are directed at particular groups of people, who have been so degraded and dehumanized that they no longer appear to be fully human or to merit the basic respect and concern that other humans command. Such crimes attack the very idea of humanity — the conviction that all human beings partake of a common nature and possess an irreducible moral value. By implication, all human beings have a right, indeed an obligation, to respond — to try to prevent such horrors from occurring and to redress their effects when they do occur.”

The modern civil rights movement did not form and grow because of its politics. It did so out of necessity. While freedom movements from the past have focused primarily on policies, such as voting rights and affirmative action, this movement is grounded in the permanent restoration of civil liberties through the restoration of humanity. We not only need to repair the harm done to those upon whom degrading acts were committed, we need a shift in the social consciousness, in the collective consciousness of a society that at one point treated its fellow human so barbarically, it lost a sense of its own humanity. While the voices of the directly impacted will carry this movement, it is incumbent upon all citizens to ensure its success.

On the 50th anniversary of the voting rights march across the Selma bridge, activists protested rollbacks in voting rights by walking the route in reverse. Photo credit: Mickey Welsh / Montgomery Advertiser.

be three times the monthly rent to qualify for housing.

“Who has that coming home from prison?” Succatti said. “The housing problem has a lot to do with people acting like, ‘If you don’t make the money I make, I don’t need you around me.’”

Last year, she rented an apartment to a who Legal Services for Prisoners with Children boardmember. The woman referred Succatti to Dorsey Nunn, the executive director, who was in a battle with the Oakland Housing Authority over a piece of property on 45th Street. Nunn was hoping to make the property available for transitional housing for recently released prisoners. In September, he brought Succatti on board to help with negotiations.

In addition to taking on the Oakland Housing Authority, Succatti is organizing the Peace & Justice Summit for All of Us or None’s national headquarters.

“There's nobody who hasn't made a mistake they'd rather everyone else not know about,” she said. “I just want to be seen as a human being. That’s what drives me.”
All of Us
Or None

Slave, who is it that shall free you?
Those in deepest darkness lying.
Comrade, only these can see you
Only they can hear you crying.
Comrade, only slaves can free you.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
One alone his lot can’t better.
Either gun or fetter.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

You who hunger, who shall feed you?
If it’s bread you would be carving,
Come to us, we too are starving.
Come to us and let us lead you.
Only hungry men can feed you.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
One alone his lot can’t better.
Either gun or fetter.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

Beaten man, who shall avenge you?
You, on whom the blows are falling,
Hear your wounded brothers calling.
Weakness gives us strength to lend you.
Come to us, we shall avenge you.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
One alone his lot can’t better.
Either gun or fetter.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

Who, oh wretched one, shall dare it?
He who can no longer bear it.
Counts the blows that arm his spirit.
Taught the time by need and sorrow,
Strikes today and not tomorrow.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

Bertolt Brecht (1898–1956)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter Contacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>National AOUON Headquarters</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c/o Legal Services for Prisoners With Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4400 Market St., Oakland, CA 94608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (415) 255-7036 x337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: (415) 552-3150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOUON National Organizer: Oscar Flores: <a href="mailto:oscar@prisonerswithchildren.org">oscar@prisonerswithchildren.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bakersfield</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ucedrah Osby: <a href="mailto:AOUONBakersfield@gmail.com">AOUONBakersfield@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Los Angeles/Long Beach</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c/o A New Way of Life Reentry Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 875288, Los Angeles, CA 90087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (323) 563-3575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: (323) 563-3445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angelique Evans: <a href="mailto:angelique@anewwayoflife.org">angelique@anewwayoflife.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Orange County</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Jeffcoat: <a href="mailto:stephaniejeffcoatocaouon@gmail.com">stephaniejeffcoatocaouon@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sacramento</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erica Smith: <a href="mailto:riversideallofusornone@gmail.com">riversideallofusornone@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>San Bernardino</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c/o A Time for Change Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 25040, San Bernardino, CA 92406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (909) 886-2994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: (909) 886-0218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim Carter: kcartertimeforchangefoundation.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>San Diego</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtis Howard: <a href="mailto:allofusornonesandiego@gmail.com">allofusornonesandiego@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Idaho Chapter</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Failing: <a href="mailto:maryfailing@my.cwi.edu">maryfailing@my.cwi.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Central Illinois</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Parker: <a href="mailto:gparker326@gmail.com">gparker326@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chicago</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Wallace: <a href="mailto:Chicago.IL.AOUON@gmail.com">Chicago.IL.AOUON@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Louisville</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savvy Shabazz: <a href="mailto:AOUONLouisville@gmail.com">AOUONLouisville@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patty Berger: <a href="mailto:AOUONStL@gmail.com">AOUONStL@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Durham</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrea “Muffin” Hudson: <a href="mailto:AOUONNC@gmail.com">AOUONNC@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eastern N.C.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corey Purdie: <a href="mailto:AOUONENC@gmail.com">AOUONENC@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Charlotte</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristie Puckett Williams: <a href="mailto:AllofUsOrNoneNC@gmail.com">AllofUsOrNoneNC@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Greater Cincinnati</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zaria Davis: <a href="mailto:CincyAOUON@gmail.com">CincyAOUON@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Philadelphia</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malik Aziz: <a href="mailto:PhillyAOUON@gmail.com">PhillyAOUON@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>San Antonio</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Huerta: <a href="mailto:AllOfUsOrNoneTexas@gmail.com">AllOfUsOrNoneTexas@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New York</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivelisse Gilestra: <a href="mailto:AOUON.NewYork@gmail.com">AOUON.NewYork@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northern New Jersey</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 9812, Newark, NJ 07104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tia Ryans: <a href="mailto:AOUON.NJ@gmail.com">AOUON.NJ@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eastern Washington</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Pirie: <a href="mailto:EasternWAAOUON@gmail.com">EasternWAAOUON@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Madison</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caliph Muab-el: <a href="mailto:WIAOUON@gmail.com">WIAOUON@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>