



LSPC Newsletter, July 2022

# Democratic Supermajority Keeps Involuntary Servitude in the California Constitution!

## Message from the Executive Director



Dorsey Nunn

*Statement after CA Senate fails to bring up ACA 3 for a vote, killing our co-sponsored amendment to remove a vestige of slavery from our governing constitution.*

The State of California just decided not vote to end slavery.

The State of California could not see themselves moving beyond the entitlement of enslaving people. That's what the question of ACA 3 was about: should we as a state hold on to the remnants and vestiges of slavery.

During the speeches before the Senate floor vote, many talked about how they didn't want to pay "inmates." The reality of it is: before those people are "inmates" or anything else, they are PEOPLE.

They couldn't necessarily see prisoners as people. They couldn't see "inmates" as people.

They couldn't distance themselves from the practice of slavery because the practice of slavery had them saying, "Please don't close the prison because it's going to affect the economy of the city."

What makes that argument any different than the argument they had during the Civil War? It'd be one thing if we didn't have any existing lessons of the past to draw from, but we have the entire history of the United States practicing chattel slavery right in front of us. It shouldn't be that difficult to come up and say slavery



*LSPC Ex. Dir. Dorsey Nunn (right) addresses advocates before the Senate vote on ACA 3 in Sacramento, CA on Thursday, June 28, 2022.*

under all circumstances is wrong.

I think that they don't want to admit that they're holding slaves, to admit that they're exploiting the hell out of people. We need to clarify that people can't volunteer at gunpoint! If that were true, then "armed robbery" would be the "voluntarily transfer of assets."

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JUSTICE

### California lawmakers reject ballot proposal that aimed to end forced prison labor

BY BYRHONDA LYONS  
JUNE 30, 2022



California prison laborers and an excavator operator help construct an emergency pipeline to increase supplies of potable water in Wilits in 2014. REUTERS/Noah Berger

**IN SUMMARY**  
Like many other states, California forbids slavery but allows involuntary servitude for prisoners. A bid to ask voters to change via a constitutional amendment failed in the Legislature.

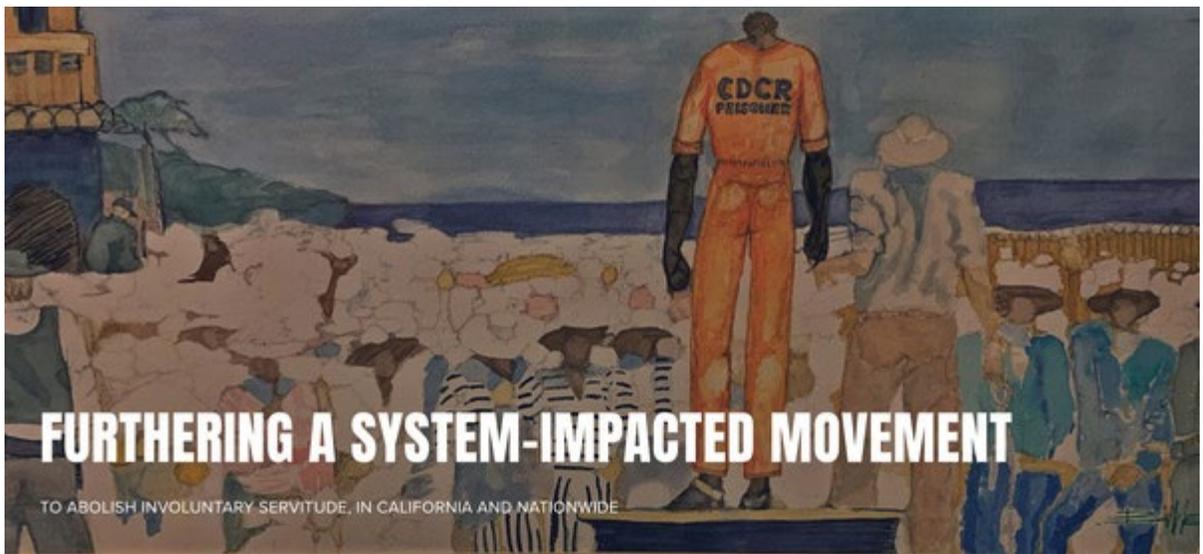
What does it mean when the so-called free slaves never get a chance to vote on slavery? When all the black people in California don't get a chance to have a vote to say should their relatives be enslaved? That the descendants of slaves don't get a chance to say if should we still maintain that as part of our constitution?

The legislature denied people the possibilities of voting on the question of slavery in California. The general public could have a whole different take on whether or not they want to maintain the notion of slavery in the constitution, but the California Legislature did not give them the privilege. The Democratic party

holds a super majority in the legislature, meaning that they're controlling the assembly and the Senate. We also have a governor that's a Democrat.

This is what makes me sad is that I have a grandson serving 25 years in the California Department of Corrections. I didn't have a say whether the State of California gets to maintain my grandson as a slave.

We will continue the fight to end slavery and involuntary servitude in this country.



*LSPC's Abolish Bondage Collectively campaign will continue to fight to end slavery and involuntary servitude in jails and prisons in California and across the country.*  
[Join the campaign here!](#)

## Policy Update

### ACA 3 Killed by CA Senate

After not receiving enough votes to pass the Senate Floor Vote on Thursday, June 23, Assembly Constitutional Amendment 3 (ACA 3) was amended. The amended language included a subsection with clarification that ACA 3 and the abolishing of slavery and involuntary servitude “is not intended to have any effect on voluntary work programs in correctional settings.” One of the major arguments against ACA 3 was that it could be interpreted to abolish all rehabilitation programs and/or require CDCR to pay market wages to all work done inside prisons.

**California**



**END INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE NOW!**

**JOIN ABC**

**"A1 S6"**

Article 1 Section 6 of the California Constitution states: Slavery is prohibited. Involuntary servitude is prohibited except to punish crime.



While we do believe incarcerated people should be paid real wages for the work they do inside—especially for CALPIA and the private businesses that profit off of prison labor, the amended language is a step to ending forced or coerced work.

ACA 3 was supposed to be brought up again on Thursday, June 30, after which it would have needed a concurrence vote in the Assembly, as June 30 was the last day for bills to pass and be put on the ballot. **But both houses adjourned before bringing ACA 3 up for a vote, killing the bill for**

**the 2022 legislative cycle.**

We will continue to campaign for the removal of the last vestiges of slavery

and involuntary servitude in our governing documents and in the actual practices in the prisons. For more information about ACA 3 and prison labor, check out our [Abolish Bondage Collectively](#) campaign.

## LSPC / ABC on the PolicyWise Podcast

On June 17, 2022 LSPC staff members appeared on the PolicyWise: Youth Leadership Institute with Demitria Wack and Michael Wiafe podcast.

[Click here to listen](#) to Policy Fellows Alissa Moore and Marvin Galdamez, LSPC Policy Analyst Jeronimo Aguilar, and LSPC Communications Manager Troy Williams discuss ACA 3, the ABC campaign, and modern prison slavery.



## Assembly / Senate Bills

All of our bills that passed their first house are now being heard in committees in the second. For more details about the bills—including fact sheets for each and how you can help—check out our [updated Policy Tracker here!](#)

Key dates coming up:

**08/01/2022** - Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess.

**08/08/2022** - 2022 Quest for Democracy Advocacy Day

**08/12/2022** - Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills.

**08/30/2022** - Last day for each house to pass bills. Final Recess begins upon adjournment.

**09/30/2022** - Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before 9/1 and in the Governor's possession on or after 9/1.

## 2022 Quest for Democracy Advocacy Day!

Our 10th annual Q4D Advocacy Day is next month on August 8! We organize hundreds of formerly incarcerated advocates, family members, and allies at the Capitol in Sacramento to speak directly to lawmakers about bills that impact our community.

The Q4D Advocacy Day includes training, a rally, entertainment, and dozens of grassroots lobbying teams meeting with California legislators.

House	House & Bill Number	Bill name	Author	Short Title	What it does
Senate	SB 1106	Conductive Telecommunications	Becker (D)	Keep Families Connected Act	This bill will make phone calls to...
Senate	SB 1139	Prisons: visitation	Kantager (D)		This bill will make it possible for inmates to have visitation...
Assembly	AB 1720	Care facilities: criminal background checks	Holten (D)	In Home Care - Occupational Licensing	This bill makes a easier for select the care facility field by requiring...
Senate	SB 1108	Criminal resentencing: restitution	Werner (D)	The Fresh Start Act	This bill would prohibit a judge from a hearing for dropping a petition...
Assembly	AB 937	Immigration Enforcement	Carillo (D)	The Vision Act	AB 937, the Ending Inequality at Neighbors (VINEN) Act, would...
Senate	SB 731	Criminal records: relief	Durazo (D)	Sun Setting Convictions	This bill will implement a system conviction and arrest records to...
Assembly	AB 1816	Reentry and Housing and workforce Development Program	Bryant (D)	Reentry and Housing and workforce Development Program	This bill would create a reentry development grant program to...
Assembly	AB 2180	The Children of Incarcerated Parents and Caregivers Task Force	Wicks D	The Children of Incarcerated Parents and Caregivers Task Force	This bill would assign a task force to...

Screenshot of the LSPC Policy Tracker. [CLICK HERE](#) to see which bills we're co-sponsoring or opposing, along with talking points & actions you can take to help!



*Group photo of participants at the 2019 Quest for Democracy Advocacy Day, the last one we organized in person before two years of Digital Q4Ds. We're so excited to be back at the Capitol on August 8 this year, and we hope to see you there!*

The Q4D rally begins 9:45 A.M. on the West Steps of the Capitol Building. We hope to see you there! For more info, contact Program Manager Errol Veron at: [errol@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:errol@prisonerswithchildren.org).

**Contribute today** to make our Day of Advocacy the best it can be. [Your gift of \\$250 makes it possible](#) for someone to attend in person, get trained, and speak to their legislators.

**CONTRIBUTE TODAY**

*The Q4D bus is leaving for the Capitol—  
are you on it?*

## **Coalition for Family Unity**

### **Father's Day Panel**

This June, LSPC's Family Unity Matters Coordinator Ivana Gonzales hosted a panel discussion on the challenges and issues fathers and their families face when incarcerated, including the importance of family visits and how to deal with all the problems prisons create that interfere with keeping families connected. [Watch the panel here on CFU Facebook!](#)



## End Child Poverty Rally

On June 21, the Coalition for Family Unity supported Asm. Isaac Bryan and the End Child Poverty Coalition at a rally to pass AB 1686 at the Capitol in Sacramento. As stated in [the AB 1686 Fact Sheet](#):

*AB 1686 reduces barriers to family reunification for children who are in the foster care system. The practice of requiring parents to pay for their child's stay in foster care is counter to the broader goals of family reunification and child wellbeing. AB 1686 requires Child Welfare Agencies to presume that payment of foster care costs unnecessarily extends children's time in foster care. This policy clarification will reform child welfare practice in California by making it consistent with state and federal child welfare policy goals.*

The End Child Poverty Coalition is also currently advocating to increase the budget for children of poor communities in order to create more resources and #upsetthesetup created by poverty that leads to incarceration.



*Family Unity Matters Coordinator Ivana Gonzales (left) with Assemblymember Issac Bryan at the End Child Poverty Rally in Sacramento, CA.*

## Truth & Justice in Child Support

Over the past year, LSPC's Coalition for Family Unity has worked in the Truth & Justice in Child Support coalition to stop the bureaucracy from taking most child-support payment to "cover operational costs." On

Wednesday, June 29, Governor Newsom, Budget Committee Chair Senator Nancy Skinner, and the CA Legislator agreed on a budget that ([per TJCS tweets](#)):

*...ensures that 100% of child support payments go to those who need them most: low-income children & parents. We can't understate how transformational this is. It's huge.*

*CA intercepts child support payments meant for low-income children & parents to recoup the cost of the social safety net. It's an ineffective form of double-taxation that has everything to do with racist beliefs about Black and brown parents. It was high time for it to end.*

*This reform will put \$430M per year back in the pockets of low-income children & parents. It'll also spur other states to follow CA's lead for a simple reason: low-income children & parents need child support payments more than the gov't does.*

*We know that everyone benefits when 100% of child support payments go to low-income children & parents because we ran a pilot-program in SF to do just that.*

For more information, check out the [Truth & Justice in Child Support website here](#).

If you'd like to be involved in the Coalition for Family Unity, check out our website here, or contact FUM Coordinator Ivana Gonzales at [ivana@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:ivana@prisonerswithchildren.org)



Truth and Justice in Child Support Coalition

## All of Us or None

### AOUON Juneteenth Events!

**All of Us or None** chapters participated in Juneteenth celebrations across the nation to raise awareness of our [Abolish Bondage Collectively campaign](#) & the fact that slavery was never abolished in America—it was just put into prisons.



Oakland, CA — Fruitvale  
AOUON Co-Founder Dorsey Nunn (left) with  
Oakland City Councilmember Carroll Fife



Oakland, CA — Lake Merritt



Brentwood, CA



Berkeley, CA



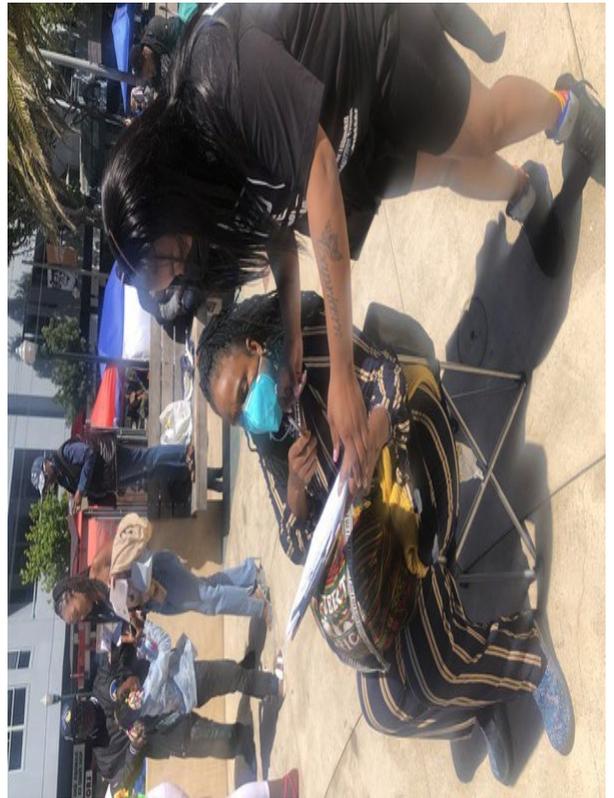
Richmond, CA



Durham, NC



*Louisville, KY*



*San Francisco, CA*



*Sacramento, CA — Robert Brookings Park*



*Sacramento, CA — William Land Park*

AOUON also celebrated Juneteenth with tabling / outreach in East Palo Alto, CA, Bakersfield, CA, Riverside, CA, Los Angeles, CA, San Diego, CA, Grand Rapids, SD, Chicago, IL, and East St. Louis, MO.

For more information or if you have any issues signing up to join us, please contact AOUON Outreach Coordinator John Cannon at:

[john@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:john@prisonerswithchildren.org)

## **Community Outreach**

### **First Friday Oakland**

All of Us or None continues to engage our community in Oakland by tabling and distributing information on [First Fridays](#). In addition to info material on our Abolish Bondage Collectively campaign and our recent victories passing Ban the Box / Fair Chance Housing ordinances in Berkeley and Oakland, we

also invite people to join us at our monthly AOUON General Meeting.



*2022 Policy Fellow Marvin Galdamez (left) with veteran Oakland Post journalist Paul Cobb at the June First Friday in Oakland, CA.*



*AOUON Outreach Coordinator John Cannon (left) and Marvin (right) keeping hyphy alive with Oakland living legend Mista F.A.B.*

## SF PRIDE

All of Us or None was very honored to ride on the Grand Marshal's float at the request of DJ Black in partnership with Katie Dixon of the ACLU. It was a great experience to be in the community and see all of our people out to support one another.

2022 Policy Fellow Tatiana Lewis said, "Pride was amazing. I loved how we were able to come out and show love to the LGBTQ+ community. I really enjoyed myself, and all the beautiful art and themed costumes pride had to offer. I can't wait for next year!"

2022 Policy Fellow Marvin Galdamez says "It was a privilege to celebrate pride in community with all our



LGBTQ+ family and see the harmony amongst us all. This is exactly why we say ALL OF US OR NONE!"

2020 Policy Fellow and AOUON member Katie Dixon: "Thank you to AOUON for supporting the 2022 SF Pride Parade. I've been to Pride every year since being released from incarceration in 2014, and it's always been a very important event to me. I'm forever grateful to be a part of AOUON, and as I always say, this group has changed my life for the better."



The community in large expressed concern over the fact that specifically among other things the right to marry ones chosen partner regardless of sex is under attack. I would be remiss if I did not mention that All Of Us Or None understands the impact of the court's decision. Since our inception in 1978 Legal Services for Prisoners with Children has been a strong advocate specifically for the rights of women and we stand in unity with the LGBTQ+ community.

Alissa Moore  
2022 Policy Fellow

Want to join in our community outreach? Contact AOUON Outreach Coordinator John Cannon at: [john@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:john@prisonerswithchildren.org) / 415.625.7045

### **AOUON Inside**

Have a family member inside?  
Let them know they can contact us for any self-help legal information, sign up to receive the All of Us or None monthly newspaper, or become an AOUON Inside Member by contacting AOUON Outreach Coordinator John Cannon at [john@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:john@prisonerswithchildren.org)

Or write to:

AOUON Inside Membership

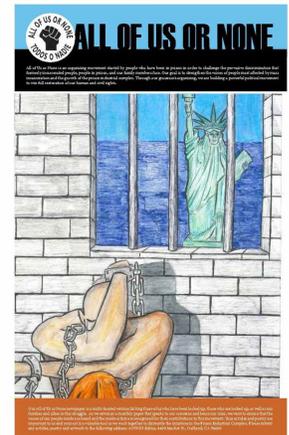


4400 Market Street  
Oakland, CA 94608

## National Newspaper!

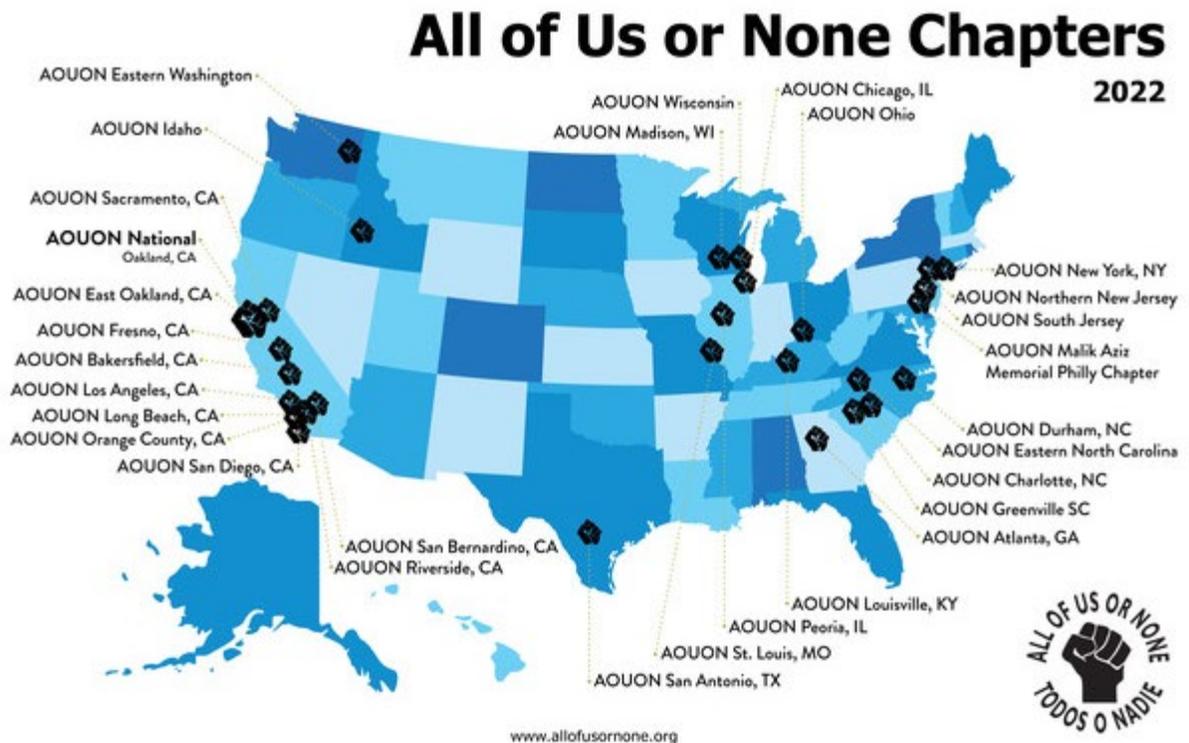
The AOUON Newspaper is a print publication sent to our members who are currently incarcerated. [Digital versions of all the issues are available on our website here!](#)

The AOUON Newspaper, which comes out monthly, is a platform to amplify the voices and stories of our members. If you're interested in sharing a personal story—be it of triumph or hardship—please get in touch with LSPC Communications manager Troy Williams at [troy@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:troy@prisonerswithchildren.org)



## AOUON National

Want to get involved in other communities across the country? [Contact one of the many AOUON chapters:](#)



Don't see an AOUON chapter near you? Contact AOUON National Organizer [Oscar Flores](#) to start one: [oscar@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:oscar@prisonerswithchildren.org) / 415.625.7048

## We're Hiring!

**Development Director**

We are seeking an experienced development director who brings an understanding for our work and a passion for social justice to our team of 27 staff members. Join us!

[Full job description and requirements here](#)

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## Paul Redd—Rest In Power

We are sorry to share that comrade Paul Redd passed away on Juneteenth, 2022. Paul returned to the community two years ago after serving 44 years—30 in solitary—during which time he played a pivotal role in organizing the campaign to end solitary confinement.

LSPC Executive Director Dorsey Nunn remembers Paul Redd:

"Paul led with integrity. He was old school, with old school principles—he never debriefed, he organized his fellows inside, and he maintained the history of Black August all through his time inside. At our August 21 Black August event last year, Paul was the one who shared the history and grounded the importance in our work today. This is even more significant given that a whole generation of political prisoners like Paul are leaving us—people who were punished for their thought more than what they did. The state already took decades of their lives, and we have only a brief time to learn from their wisdom and experience.

The last time I saw Paul, two weeks before his passing, he was discussing how he wanted to invest in the community school created after parents took over Parker Elementary in East Oakland earlier this year. Paul wasn't a rich man, but he was a committed man. We will miss his passion and integrity."

Paul Redd's memorial service is tomorrow, June 9. [More info and a fundraiser to cover funeral expenses here.](#)



*Paul Redd shares the history of Black August at the Oakland Rejects Slavery Community BBQ at Little Bobby Hutton Park in West Oakland, August 21, 2021.*

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## Calendar

### **AOUON – Oakland Meeting – Virtual!**

**When:** 6:30 P.M., July 21, 2022 (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month)

**Where:** Online on Zoom: <https://bit.ly/AOUONGeneralMeeting>

All people and family members directly impacted by the criminal justice system are invited to join [All of Us or](#)

[None](#) at our monthly meeting the 3rd Thursday of each month in Oakland, CA. We discuss local and state legislation, plan community events, and strategize how to advocate for our community in our own voices.



For more information contact Paul B.:  
paulb@prisonerswithchildren.org / 415.255.7036

## **FICPFM 2022 National Convening**

**When:** October 6-9, 2022

**Where:** Atlanta, Georgia

Please check out our [Save the Date for our National Convening](#), celebrating 10-years of the Formerly Incarcerated, Convicted People's & Families Movement (FICPFM) and the kick off of



Formerly Incarcerated,  
Convicted People &  
Families Movement

our Free the VOTE campaign across the country! Registration information will be sent out very soon. You don't want to miss this one.

*LSPC / All of Us or None is a proud founding member and current steering committee member of FICPFM. We organized the inaugural 2016 FICPFM National Convening in Oakland and continue to work with the other formerly incarcerated-led orgs to uplift our communities and fight for the full restoration of our rights across the country.*



[Donate to LSPC / All of Us or None here!](#)

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