

Our All of Us or None newspaper serves to link those of us who have been locked up, those who are locked up, as well as our families and allies in this struggle.



# ALL OF US OR NONE

## NEWSPAPER

We want to ensure that the voices of our people inside are heard and the inside artists are recognized for their contributions to this movement.

Your stories matter!

MAY 2023



April 26th, CA State Capitol - Aaliyah Muhammad (LSPC/AOUON Staff) shares her personal story about being an enslaved firefighter at the press conference and rally introducing CA Living Wage for All (AB 1516). AOUON members showed up to show their support and mobilized from the rally to the committee hearing.

## Criminology Mixology

By Leo Cardez, IL



Image by Shutterstock

Criminalization, abolition, and prison reform have long been third rail issues in America. The only benefit to this impasse of ideologies is the mountain of research that has been collected in the interim.

Those of us in camp reality—camp humanity—have long known the roots of these problems. Now, we have the proof. A collection of federal studies has found that youth who witness or are direct victims of violence, are raised without the full support of both parents, or do not have access to quality education have a much higher risk for justice system involvement later in life. The opposite is also true.

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I was raised in 'Chi-raq.' My school had metal detectors and armed security. My parents were immigrants, and we lived extremely poor in the planet's richest country. When I was 6 years old I was awakened by a shotgun blast, as my father was caught unprepared by a burglar in our house.

Jump ahead two years: I am walking home with my mother and sister, when we are violently assaulted at knifepoint. I am still haunted by my mother's high-pitched scream and can still feel how tightly she squeezed my tiny hand. Then, at 10 years old, playing at the park with my best friend Hector, a car pulls up and a tattooed teenager leans out the window and throws up a gang sign. Hector and I don't know how to react so we simply sprint off as gun shots ring out over our heads. By junior high school, I was constantly getting my brains beat in by the local gang my mother refused to let me join. My freshman year in high school, I watched my cousin get his head split open during a car-jacking gone wrong. (And most people in prison consider my upbringing tame.)

We know that trauma can rewire a young child's mind. Humans are built to store painful memories as a survival mechanism, like the hard lessons our ancestors learned on the savannah. It is why I remember each of the gut-wrenching slices of my life with crystal clarity, but not one birthday cake. It is also why children can often develop mental health issues, such as PTSD and dissociation.

Prison is a den of fatherless boys, often raised by their mothers. In my experience, most inmates were raised in an unstable environment. Single mothers, even those with the best intentions, have no other recourse but to leave their children at the mercy of the streets to put food on the table. (Spoiler alert: the streets have no mercy.) Studies have long shown the importance of a stable environment, especially a strong two-parent upbringing, as a protective effect against the likelihood of future violent offenses. Do all single parents living in the hood raise future delinquents? Of course not, but far too many do, with the inevitable irony being that prisons only perpetuate the issue of more children being raised in without both parents present.

# Legislation is Powerful

by TaSin Sabir, AOUON Newspaper Editor and LSPC Communications Manager

Legislation can be a powerful tool in securing better rights for incarcerated people. The first step is to identify the specific issues that need to be addressed, such as inadequate healthcare, inhumane conditions, or unfair sentencing practices. Then, advocates can work with legislators to draft and introduce bills that would address these issues. It's important to build a coalition of supporters, including impacted individuals and their families, as well as other advocacy organizations, to help build momentum and gain political support. Once a bill is introduced, it's important to mobilize the community to advocate for its passage by reaching out to elected officials, participating in public hearings, and generating media coverage. Finally, once the bill is passed, advocates must continue to monitor implementation to ensure that the intended improvements are being carried out effectively. Through strategic legislative advocacy, we can work towards a more just and humane criminal justice system.



Voluntary servitude means slavery. Capitol to ensure that we sent a message that involuntary servitude means slavery.

to continue making positive changes. By building a sustained movement for prison justice reform, we can create lasting change that benefits everyone in our society.

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC) and All of Us or None (AOUON) have achieved notable successes in their efforts to secure better rights for people affected by mass incarceration. Here are some examples: LSPC/AOUON has successfully advocated for legislation that allows incarcerated parents to maintain meaningful contact with their children, including in-person visits, phone calls, and video chats. LSPC/AOUON has helped to pass laws that restore voting rights to people who have been released from prison, which has enabled tens of thousands of formerly incarcerated individuals to participate in the democratic process.

LSPC/AOUON has successfully advocated for the implementation of "Ban the Box" policies, which prohibit employers from asking about a job applicant's criminal history on job applications. This helps to ensure that people with criminal records have a fair chance at employment. LSPC/AOUON has also been involved in campaigns to end the use of solitary confinement in prisons and jails, which has been shown to have negative impacts on mental health and well-being. These are just a few examples of the important work that LSPC and AOUON are doing to promote criminal justice reform and secure better rights for people in prison or jail.

LSPC/AOUON has achieved their successes through a combination of legal advocacy, grassroots organizing, and legislative campaigns. LSPC/

In addition to monitoring the implementation of the legislation, it's also important to build on the momentum created by legislative victories to encourage continued engagement from the community. One way to do this is by encouraging people to vote in local and state elections. Elected officials have a significant impact on the policies and practices that affect people in prison, and by voting for candidates who prioritize criminal justice reform, we can ensure that these issues remain at the forefront of the political agenda. Additionally, ongoing community education and awareness-raising efforts can help keep these issues in the public eye and maintain pressure on policymakers

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**ALL OF US OR NONE**  
NEWSPAPER

(Vol. 4, Issue 5)

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*All of Us or None is an organizing movement started by people who have been in prison in order to challenge the pervasive discrimination that formerly incarcerated people, people in prison, and our family members face. Our goal is to strengthen the voices of people most affected by mass incarceration and the prison industrial complex. Through our grassroots organizing, we are building a powerful political movement to win full restoration of our human and civil rights.*

[www.prisonerswithchildren.org](http://www.prisonerswithchildren.org)



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**SELF DETERMINATION  
PLEDGE**

**As members of All of Us or None,  
we pledge:**

**To demand the right to speak in  
our own voices**

**To treat each other with respect  
and not allow differences to  
divide us**

**To accept responsibility for any  
acts that may have caused harm  
to our families, our communities  
or ourselves**

**To fight all forms of  
discrimination**

**To help build the economic  
stability of formerly-incarcerated  
people**

**To claim and take care of our own  
children and our families**

**To support community struggles  
to stop using prisons as the  
answer to social problems**

**To play an active role in making  
our communities safe for  
everyone**

# Message from Dorsey

by Dorsey Nunn, Executive Director and Co-Founder of AOUON



*In collaboration with Care First Community Coalition, Restore Oakland, Inc. held a vigil and noise demonstration to honor the lives of Stephen Lofton, Elizabeth Laurel, Charles Johnson, and Cody Vanburen, who lost their lives while incarcerated at Santa Rita Jail in the first two months of 2023, under the watch of the newly elected Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez. Additionally, seven other individuals at Santa Rita Jail experienced fentanyl overdoses in February alone. The event took place April 1, 2023 at Santa Rita Jail and Dorsey Nunn was one of the speakers at the event.*

*The organizers demanded that Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez and all law enforcement agencies in Alameda County immediately end their deadly practice of arresting and incarcerating people with mental health and substance needs. They also demanded that Alameda County Board of Supervisors investigate deaths in Santa Rita Jail, including a review of the contract with the private medical provider in the jail, Wellpath, which had failed to prevent these deaths of people on intake. Lastly, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors was demanded to immediately fund \$50M of life-saving community mental health services they committed to last year but had stalled to implement.*

## Dorsey's speech from the rally:

I wish I could say that I have never been here before. I have a Redbull right here, but I'm scared to drink it because it will make me go to the bathroom and I don't want to go back in there. The reality of it is that when I hear people grieve like this, the first thing I need to acknowledge is that on this land we still hold slaves. And as long as we're holding slaves we will never respect human life.

The first time I arrived at Santa Rita was probably in 1969 and I was a teenager. So they got a new building, but an old practice. The practice didn't change. The oppression didn't change, you know, it is killing us. All the time.

I feel honored to be here because people are standing here saying that it needs to stop, but I also think that we need to do more than just saying, stop.

I think we need to organize in such a way that we have numbers that actually can demonstrate that it's important.

**THINK ABOUT IT... IN THE EVENT THAT YOU SEE ME STANDING ON THE STREETS, SMEARING MYSELF WITH FECES, HAVING AN ATTACK OF SOME SORT, SHOULD YOU TAKE ME TO JAIL OR SHOULD YOU TAKE ME TO A MENTAL INSTITUTION? IN THE EVENT THAT I'M OUT OF CONTROL WITH A DRUG PROBLEM, SHOULD YOU TAKE ME TO A DRUG PROGRAM OR SHOULD YOU TAKE ME TO JAIL?**



At the starting point, there is something called compassion and we are sorely missing that as a society particularly when it comes to black and brown folks. Someone said to me that they didn't know the number well. It's ten times the rate of white folks as to black people. If I was a latino I would probably be six times the rate. So at a certain point, we could actually say the system is racist based on evidence, systemic problems.

When I was younger I remember the saying, "a person always returns to the scene of a crime", You know it seems like I keep returning to the scene of a crime but it's not mine. It's the scene of other people's crimes.

LSPC is suing them on two or three occasions. I'm just saying, I'm not only going to march everytime. I'm gonna march, I'm going to sue, and I'm going to cuss.

I'll do all of that, because I'm not going to go silently into the night. Im going to be loud!

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# Beyond the Wall

by Ojore Mckinnon

My eyes and mind had not been that alive and animated in 22 years. The sun shined brighter, the sky was more pastel blue, and beautiful. I don't remember the last time I saw so many trees?

**A**fter twenty-two years behind the walls of San Quentin State Prison, I was called for an outside medical transport. The call came as no surprise, I had been awaiting the announcement for a couple months.

As I prepared for the transport, two impatient transport officers came upstairs to the fourth tier to fetch me. Stripped down to my whites and State shoes, I was issued an orange jumpsuit for transportation purposes. After getting into the jumpsuit, I was placed in waist-restraints; then off we went down the tier, followed by the stairs; then out the unit. As soon as I stepped outside the unit, the non-descript, white, transport van was parked outside the unit door. I was ushered inside to an enclosed back-seat compartment. Once in the seat, and before leaving the cage was secured, and ankle shackles were placed on my legs.

Yes, to prevent any escape.

Just as I entered San Quentin Prison, in the back-seat of a car, twenty-two years later, I was now leaving the prison in reverse, along the same road that bordered the prison yard and followed along the looming wall that encircled the prison up to the same portcullis back-gate.

Once through the gate and beyond the walls, I remained on prison grounds until this day. As the vehicle drove along the service road I took in the water of the San Francisco Bay, next to the prison with great interest. Unlike when I arrived, it was not umber and clouded with silt, instead the rough, choppy water was an opaque darkness. I observed the geese floating near the shoreline and other geese enjoying an afternoon grooming. Normally, while

on the yard, I would see them in V-Formation flying overhead. Now I had some idea where they ended up.

After leaving the grounds of the prison and the van was well into traffic, I began to sense a different vibe, energy and brightness.

During the ride to the clinic I often forgot I was sitting in the back seat of a transport van, dressed in orange, draped in waist restraints and ankle chains.

My eyes and mind had not been that alive and animated in 22 years. The sun shined brighter, the sky was more pastel blue, and beautiful. I don't remember the last time I saw so many trees? Society continued to move as I had left it, and that was the first time in decades I observed society as I knew it, unlike what I regularly saw on television. A state of nostalgia overcame me, that was visceral; my muscle memory recalled such warm, beautiful days when I lived free and spontaneously. My thoughts drifted to my deceased mother; then to my grandchildren, with me pushing them in a swing, to enjoying ice-cream with them; then to so many other moments that I desired.

This was also the first time I sat restrained in a patrol car or transport vehicle and did not care if anyone peered at me with curiosity or disgust; nor did I feel or sense shame; or wonder what they thought of me. That's not to say I accepted my position, nor had I become institutionalized and



Photo of young Ojore Mckinnon. Courtesy of his Instagram page

comfortable. I simply felt what people saw was not a genuine depiction of who I am.

W.E.B. Dubois, once wrote, "The slave walked free into the warm sun of freedom, paused awhile, then turned and returned to slavery."

Similarly, I soaked up the warmth of the sun as I wobbled in and out of the clinic. Only during those two moments did I experience a sense of freedom.

Once back on prison grounds, my reality of being imprisoned returned. I was once again Crandell Mckinnon, CDC,# P-32800. However, I want you to know, they can confine my physical body, but mentally I will remain free.

Thank you to everyone who supports me or advocates on my behalf. Thank you, to everyone who has donated to my Just Cause, purchased my books and creative work, I appreciate you and ask that you continue to encourage others to HELP in my fight for Life, Justice and Freedom.

Step Up, Speak Up, Organize!  
I SAY, WE SAY: FREE OJORE!  
From my stance on Maa, a voice from Death Row.

## Legal Corner

by Kellie Walters, JD, LLM, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children Staff Attorney

"Eight million people in California have a criminal record," and Governor Newsom signed SB 731 into law last year. SB 731 "makes California the first state that will automatically seal most criminal records for those who complete their sentences." As a result, "at least 225,000 will have an old conviction automatically sealed as a result of the new law, according to the Alliance for Safety and Justice, a national criminal justice reform group." Various studies have shown that accessible criminal records make obtaining employment, housing, and loans significantly more difficult. Such laws that seal criminal records come from the knowledge that even a misdemeanor conviction in California can disqualify one from professional licensing, public employment, and government benefits, including public housing and welfare. Numerous studies have shown that a person whose criminal record is known

to employers, landlords, and creditors will be less likely to obtain employment, housing, and loans. Not surprisingly, additional studies have shown that this inability to gain employment, housing, or loans can lead to recidivism.

In response to this and other progressive re-entry reforms, various organizations have taken the step to assist people with criminal records get the expungements or sealing that could change their lives. In line with this, LSPC is also starting a legal clinic to help people advocate for themselves to get relief under SB 731.

The first clinic will likely introduce LSPC and AOUON and discuss California's former and recent actions concerning expungements and sealing criminal records. Additionally, we will discuss who is eligible for expungement and sealing their criminal records, the paperwork involved, and what to expect if one has to go to court.

LSPC and AOUON are looking to explore

collaborations with other organizations and hope to expand on different topics in future clinics, such as the voting rights of the formerly incarcerated and the housing rights of those with a criminal history.



**The first clinic will be on May 5, 2023, from 2 pm to 5 pm at the Colonial Heights Library at 4799 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95820.**

**To register for the clinic or for further information:**

Email: [aaliyah@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:aaliyah@prisonerswithchildren.org), call (916) 501-9988, or contact: Clean Slate All of Us or None Sacramento 2251 Florin Road, Suite 119 Sacramento CA 95822

"Change takes time. And patience. And courage. And telling the truth," - Price

# Pamela Price



by TaSin Sabir, AOUON Newspaper Editor and LSPC Communications Manager

**P**amela Price, a civil rights attorney and racial justice activist, has become the first black district attorney to serve Alameda County, California. Price is also a former foster youth who was incarcerated as a teenager. She entered the child welfare system at age 13 and was shuffled between foster homes, group homes, and juvenile detention facilities before emancipating at 16. She credits a trio of women who took her in and guided her to Yale, even after she had dropped out of high school. Price has pledged to adopt progressive policies aimed at restoring public trust in the criminal justice system, reducing gun violence, implementing fair justice measures, stopping over-criminalization of youth, ending the death penalty, protecting immigrant communities, holding police accountable for misconduct, establishing prosecutorial accountability, effective re-entry strategies, and investing in public health and social services.

Since taking office in January, Price has launched a pilot program in collaboration with the court for transitional youth ages 18 to 25 who got caught with a gun for the first time to divert them from the criminal legal system and pair them with mentors. She has also begun to take a closer look at the use of enhancements that lead to over-criminalization of young people and people of color.

At a rally in Oakland on April 24, 2023, Price criticized the media for allegedly not being as tough on police and prosecutors as it is on those who challenge them. She also acknowledged that standing up for justice and freedom would bring backlash. "Yes, we are facing the backlash. That's what it is. The backlash. Any time you stand up for justice and freedom, there is going to be a backlash," Price said to the crowd.

Price inherited an organization that was in

chaos, and she is working towards bringing change and progress to the Alameda County's criminal justice system.

"Change takes time. And patience. And courage. And telling the truth," remarked Price.

Prosecutors who resigned from the Alameda County DA's Office within months of Price assuming her role have raised concerns about her policies. They argue that Price is insensitive to victims of violent crimes and too lenient on incarcerated individuals, putting defendants before the community and victims.

In response, Price said, "Yes, it's a new day. Them other folks is gone. Most of 'em. I'm working on the rest. Okay?"

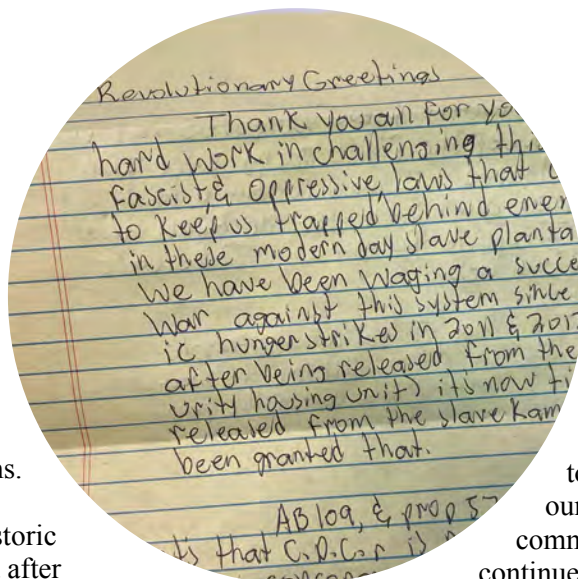
Price concluded her speech by reminding the audience that she was elected on a platform of change, which she intends to deliver.

## Revolutionary Greetings

by M Walimu Shakur  
Corcoran State Prison, CA

**T**hank you all for your continued hard work in challenging this government's fascist and oppressive laws that continue to keep us trapped behind enemy lines in these modern day slave plantations. We have been waging a successful war against this system since our historic hunger strikes in 2011 and 2013 and after being released from the SHU (Security Housing Unit) it's now time to be released from the slave camps and I've been granted that.

AB 109 and Prop 57 are two initiatives that CDCR is recognizing here in Corcoran and I've been found suitable to be released later this year. You along with other organizations have been fighting and working tirelessly to make these changes in this system, and



I'd like to help and work with you in whatever capacity I can, to show my undying love for AOUON.

After 20 years in prison, all I want to do is help rebuild our new African communities as well as continue to reeducate these youngsters so they can keep the fight going once I'm released. I will continue to do just that, and please let me know what I can do for you all. Take care and God bless.

*In Solidarity Struggle*  
M Walimu Shakur  
*A servant of the people*

### MAIL YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO:

**Freedom & Movement Center  
AOUON Newspaper Editor  
4400 MARKET STREET  
OAKLAND, CA 94608**



Inside News Articles. Opinion Pieces. Reviews. Features: Creative or exploratory. News Analysis. Poetry. Art. Comics

We can't wait to hear from you!

# Legislation is Powerful

(Continued from page 1)

AOUON has worked tirelessly to build coalitions of advocates, impacted individuals, and community members to put pressure on policymakers and elected officials to pass laws that promote criminal justice reform.

One way people can help is by volunteering their time and skills to support ongoing campaigns. This can include phone banking, canvassing, and other outreach efforts to build support for legislative initiatives, as well as fundraising and other forms of support to help sustain the work. Additionally, people can participate in public hearings and meetings, write letters to elected officials, and use social media to amplify the voices of impacted individuals and their families.

By getting involved and supporting LSPC/AOUON, people can help to promote more equitable and just policies that benefit everyone in our society. Whether it's advocating for the rights of incarcerated parents and their families, fighting to end discrimination against formerly incarcerated individuals, or putting an end to involuntary servitude, there are many ways to get involved and make a difference.



AOUON members at the Pamela Price Rally in Oakland, CA on April 24, 2023



Assemblymember Lori D Wilson speaking at ACLU Justice Rising Lobby Day. Wilson is sponsoring the end slavery bill (ACA 8). LSPC's Elder Freeman Policy Fellows attended the Lobby Day.



John Cannon supporting the removal of slavery in California's constitution 13th amendment (ACA 8)



DW supporting the removal of slavery in California's constitution 13th amendment (ACA 8)



Henry Ortiz supporting the removal of slavery in California's constitution 13th amendment (ACA 8)



Lawrence Cox opposing bills AB 1058, AB 367, AB-676, AB 955 and others that justify a new war on drugs - targeting youth on social media

# Criminology Mixology (Continued from page 1)

Education, or lack thereof, is also an important factor. There is a direct association between the level of education attained and the risk of offending behavior. (In prisons, recidivism rates have been shown to decrease as the level of education attained while incarcerated increases.)

Education is critical during a young person's life to avoid future court involvement. It also plays a part in developing safe, healthy psychological habits. Quality higher education has been shown to drastically improve the odds of youth who have been witnesses or subjects of violence or raised in an under-resourced home to avoid future criminal justice system involvement, regardless of race or social status.

Ideally, every child in America would be raised in a stable, loving home, in a safe neighborhood, and receive quality education. Ideally.

So, how do we work toward that ideal? How do we force parents to be good loving stewards to their children? How do we convert gang-controlled, drug-infested war zones into utopias, where young people are encouraged and supported? How do we erase centuries of American cultural, political, social, and racial repression? Through, sweeping prison reform? Defunding the police? Abolition?

If it were easy, I'd like to believe we would already be doing it. Don't worry gentle readers, I do offer an avenue to explore.

## Mentorship!

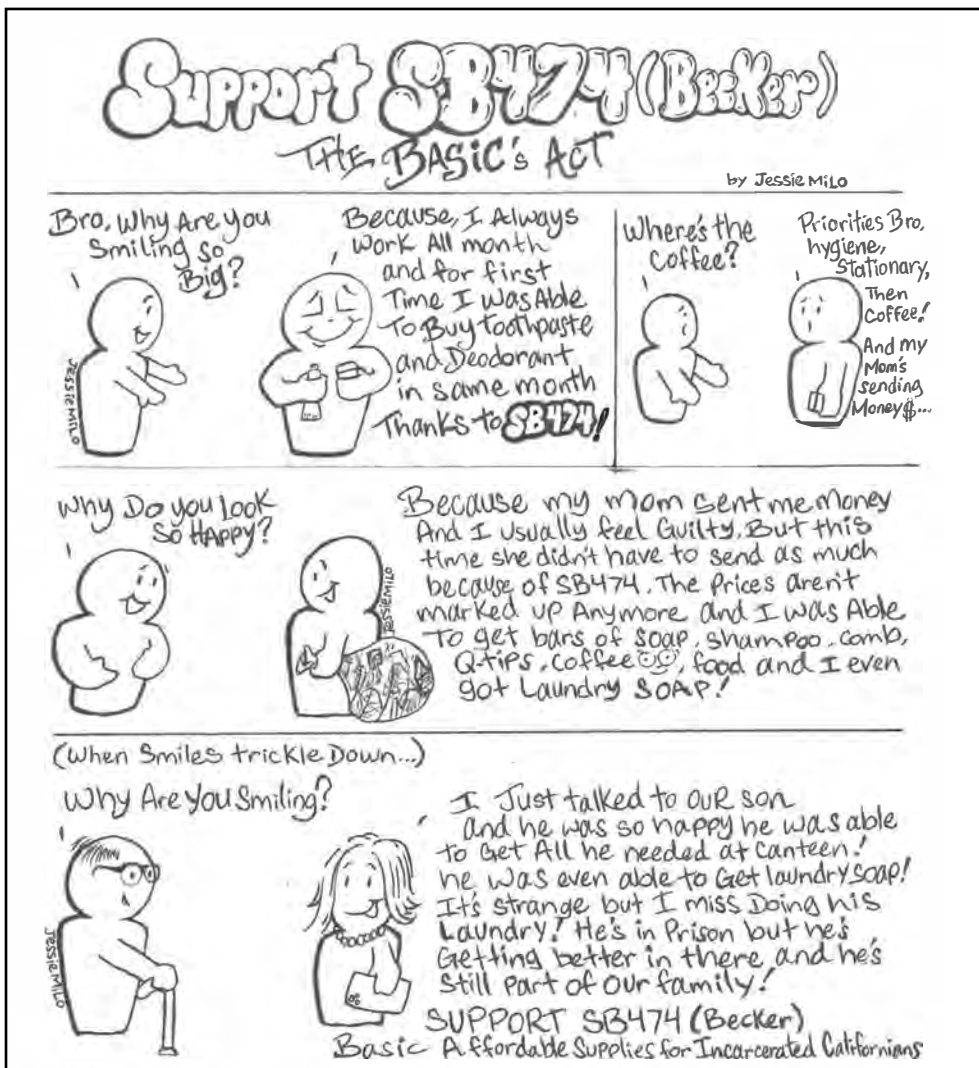
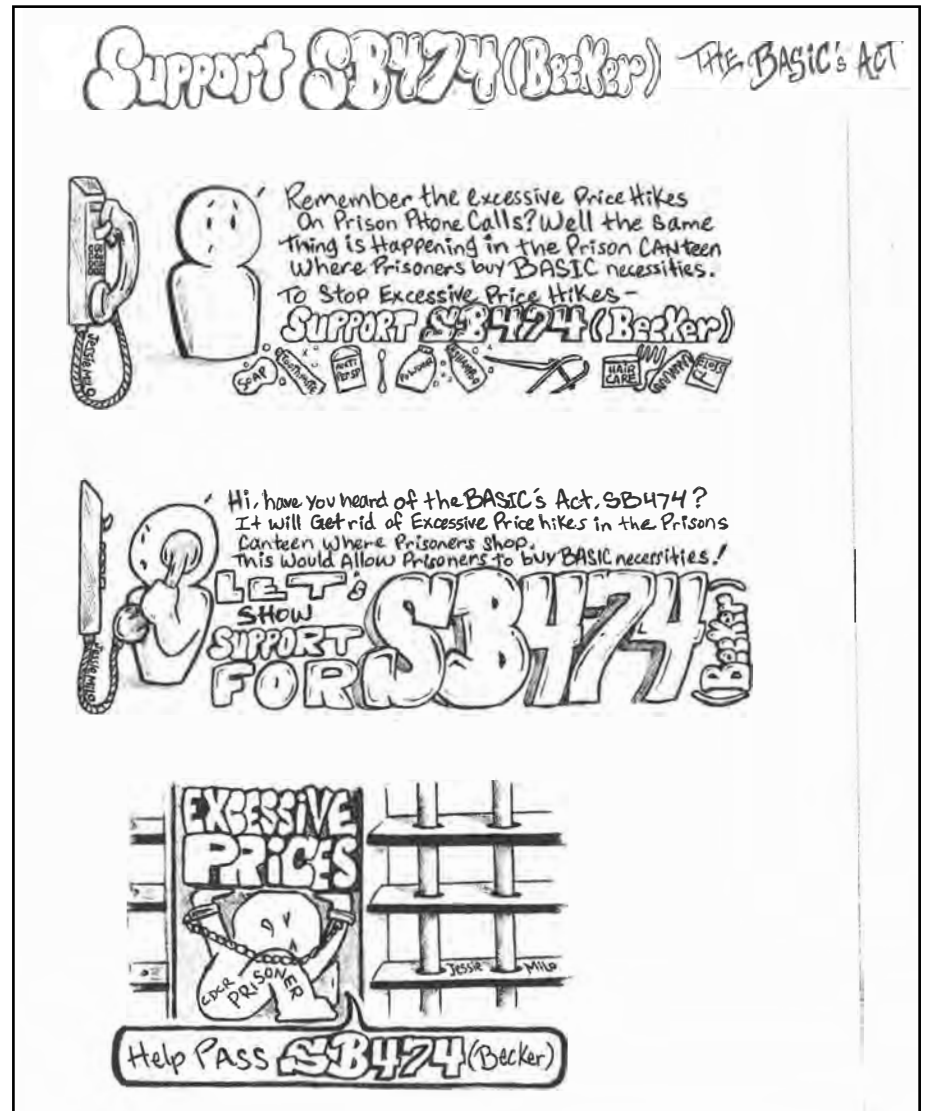
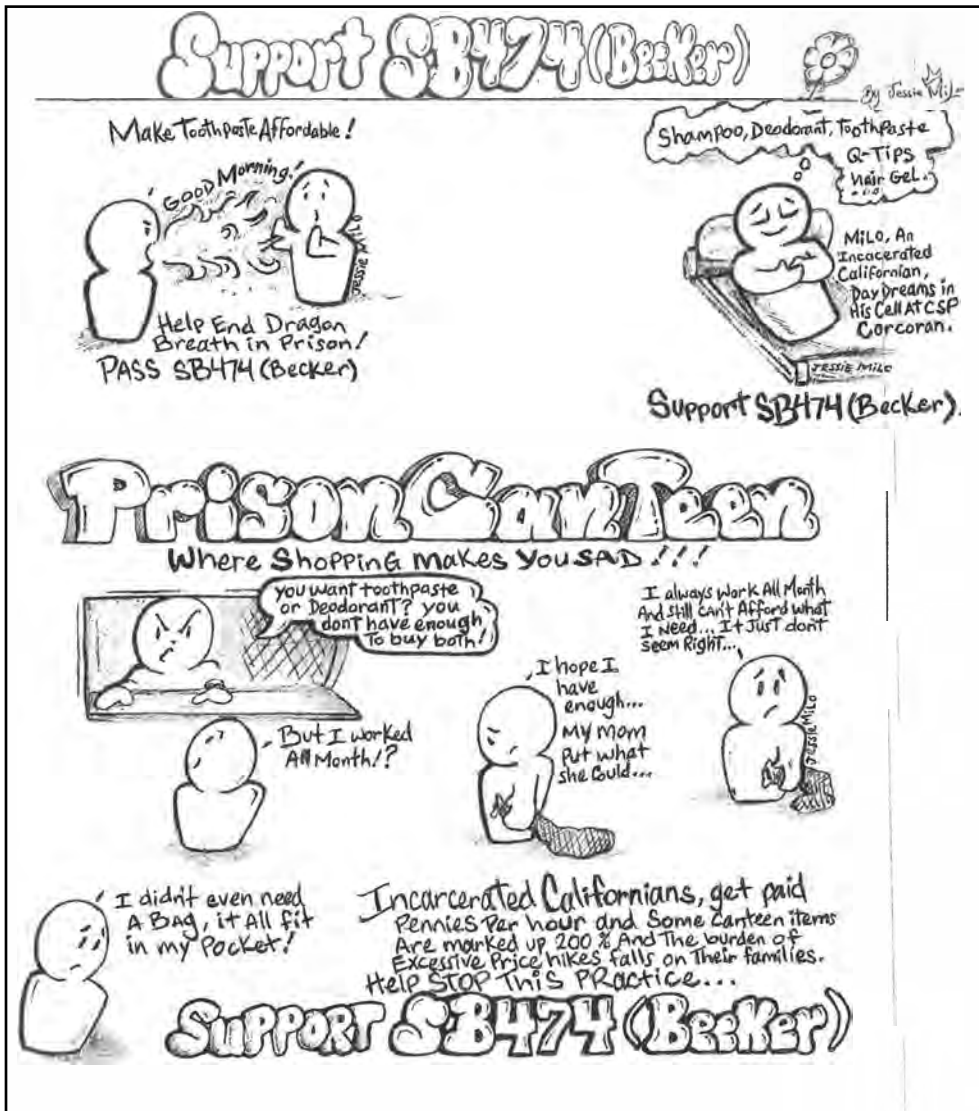
Yes, mentorship. Mentorship as a large-scale strategic approach has not received the attention it deserves, even as all many studies clearly demonstrate its potential. I know it's not as sexy as other reform movements, with their made for social media catch phrases, but recent studies show the approach has promise for preventing adverse outcomes and promoting resilience among at-risk youth. Mentorship programs vary, from those that rely on adult volunteers and paid staff to students at higher grade levels. Some programs may focus on promoting mental health, others on academic achievement. Some simply aim to help kids stay off the streets. Regardless, they stand up as a viable approach for preventing and reducing delinquent behavior across all races, genders, and ages.

There are an array of mentorship programs nationwide going well beyond the traditional Big Brothers, or Boys and Girls Clubs of America model. Reading for Life, a group mentoring program that uses works of literature to facilitate moral development and character in high-risk neighborhoods, found a statistically significant decline in adverse outcomes for their participants. Quantum Opportunities of the Eisenhower Foundation is an intensive year-round, multi-component intervention program for high-risk minority high school students from inner-city neighborhoods. Youth receive both individual and group mentoring from the paid staff. Participants boast significantly higher GPAs, high school

graduation rates, and college acceptance rates. For example, 76 percent of program youth graduated from high school compared to the 40 percent of the control group. Experts believe the program's success is due, in part, to the extensive interpersonal mentoring that goes beyond the focus on education. The mentors are trained to serve as advocates for the youth, including visiting their homes to discuss problems and find solutions, attending parent-teacher conferences, and standing in for parents when needed. On the whole, the findings provide intriguing preliminary evidence that mentoring received through a program during childhood or adolescence can indeed foster improved functioning into and through adulthood.

In recent years, similar programs have been implemented in prison settings—their early results show promise, too. America's criminal justice system is broken, and we are at a critical junction where we can either push toward creating a better, more humane, fair system, or lower our sights and continue to compromise our humanity and fall deeper into the darkness. For all of our faults, I do not believe we as a nation should ever settle for anything less than our full potential. Investing in these types of large-scale mentorship programs may not be the most expected path, nor will it be the easiest or cheapest. Some pain is to be expected. But not all pain is bad—freedom is often found through pain.

# SB 4784 *Comic by Jessie Milo - California State Prison - Corcoran*



## The Basic, Affordable Supplies for Incarcerated Californians (BASICS) Act SB 474 (Becker)

The Canteen Bill will help families out by eliminating the high markups of canteen items in state prisons in California. Canteens items are a basic need for incarcerated people. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation does not provide enough of personal hygiene products such as toilet paper, toothpaste & body soap. Some products such as deodorant, shampoo, mouthwash, hair gel and lotion are not provided at all.

- This bill would prohibit items sold in California state prisons' canteens from being sold to incarcerated people at a price beyond

that paid to the vendor.

- This legislation would end price gouging on essential supplies for incarcerated people (including food and hygiene products), a burden which is mostly carried by poor families of color.
- This bill will help those incarcerated inside as well as their families by not having to worry about not being able to afford canteen.

Facts you can share with your family and friends:

- Due to inadequate CDCR provisions, incarcerated people are forced to rely on overpriced canteen items to meet their basic needs. The majority

of canteen spending in CA prisons is on food & essential hygiene items (toilet paper, soap, toothpaste). Pass #SB474 to eliminate the markups

- In a report from Impact Justice, 3/5 of formerly incarcerated people surveyed said they couldn't afford canteen purchases. 75% said access to food was limited by their family's income. Eliminate mark-ups on canteens across CA state prisons!

Co-Sponsors of SB 474 (Becker): Ella Baker Center for Human Rights (EBC), Legal Aid at Work, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC) / All Of Us Or None, MILPA Collective, and Women's Foundation California Solis Policy Institute.

# Jesse's Corner

by Jesse Burluson LSPC/AOUON In-Custody Program Coordinator

## Reparations

**A**lameda County is establishing a Reparations Commission. They have one seat for a formerly incarcerated person and one at-large seat. I applied and submitted the letter below along with my application. My reason for applying is to help ensure that someone is on the commission who represents the interests of those who are currently incarcerated when it comes to reparations.



I am applying for the formerly incarcerated seat or a seat at large on the Alameda County Reparations Commission. I believe we are entitled to reparations as a result of our experiences in the United States,

generationally, up to the present minute. I believe that "poverty", particularly within the black former slave population, is by design. And that the propensity for criminal behavior is directly correlated to poverty as well as the lack of education and moral training. I further believe that any discussions of reparations must include those who are currently incarcerated since most of the incarcerated are a result of deliberately impoverished communities targeted by our government.

I believe black people suffered a holocaust of our own here in America and that we are still under

a form of oppression since emancipation. I view prisons as the modern-day plantations where black men and women are taken, usually far away from where we live to remote places where people live who are on the losing side of the civil war. I view "prisons" as "plantation systems" that the government keeps running by providing it "slaves" through its criminal justice system. Slave handlers, who lost their jobs when plantation owners lost their slaves, have managed to stay employed through public funding via our modern-day plantation system; i.e., prisons.

I believe that reparations are a necessary component for improving "public safety". Rich persons do not, for example, bip car windows or commit armed robberies. Desperate people do. And "recidivism" has been directly linked to "poverty" as well. So those inside prisons need to be included equally, and not be carved out by any negative narratives already built against them.

I believe there is a moral obligation owed to the former slave population that must translate into economic development for those who have suffered the most.

Who am I? My name is Jesse Clyde Burluson. I was born in 1969, in San Francisco where I experienced incarceration periodically as a teenager during my youth, as well as an adult from 1987-2018. I have lived in Texas and Southern California and visited several different states, including Georgia, Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, D.C., Maryland, and the state of Washington. I have also been to Canada and Mexico. I consider these part of my lived experienced since these were not pleasure trips. I do not have a "degree" but am well-read with a wide understanding of various topics. I believe in rules and structure but am also a free thinker, meaning

I have my own mind and not confined to anyone's philosophy. I accept the common morals found in the teachings of Moses, Christ, and Muhammad as my personal boundary and guideline.

I am an "abolitionist". I think Abraham Lincoln only did half the job, and now it is on us to complete the task of freeing ourselves completely and ending slavery altogether. I support changing the Constitution's 13th amendment exception clause, that upholds the practice of profiteering from prison labor. Mind you, there are more bodies in prisons than there are jobs, so the impetus of having these modern-day slave-quarters runs deeper than the labor that they can provide. Our public funding is the major revenue source for modern-day slave managers. And keeping prisons filled with the former slave population, and keeping us from rising, is the primary agenda.

I express these views so that you know what you have in me if I am granted a seat on the Commission. I am not the firebrand type but more so an intellectual who uses my knowledge and experience to inform my decision making.

Thank you,  
Jesse Burluson



Jesse Burluson supporting the removal of slavery in California's constitution 13th amendment (ACA 8)

# Policy Update

by Jeronimo Aguilar, LSPC Policy Analyst



Jeronimo Aguilar supporting the removal of slavery in California's constitution 13th amendment (ACA 8)

## LSPC Cosponsored Legislation [2023-2024]

- The Basic, Affordable Supplies for Incarcerated Californians (BASICS) Act SB 474 (Becker)
- Family Proximity for Incarcerated Parents |AB 1226 – Family Proximity (Haney)
- End Slavery in CA ACT |ACA 8 – Involuntary Servitude (Wilson)
- The Home Act | AB 1306 – ICE Transfers from CDCR (Carrillo)
- Youth Restitution |AB 1186 – Restitution: Youth. (Bonta)
- Bench Warrants |AB 1266 – Warrants (Kalra)
- Fair Chance Housing | SB 460 – Hiring of real property: Criminal history (Wahab)
- CA Wage Increase for All |AB 1516 – Wage Increase (Kalra)
- Visitation as a Right |AB 958 – Prisons: Inmate Visitation (Santiago)
- Ban The Box 2 | SB 809 – Employment (Smallwood-Cuevas)

- SB 824 | Foster Care Extended Family Placement Act (Ashby)

Familia, I am blessed to report that all of our priority legislation is still alive and making its way through the CA legislature. Please reach out to our in custody coordinator Jesse Burluson (if incarcerated) or myself [jeronimo@prisonerswithchildren.org] for ways you can get involved and help these bills continue to move forward. Notably, some of these larger campaigns such as our movement to end slavery in CA through ACA 8. We need to hear YOUR stories and reflections on why the exploitation of labor needs to stop! YOUR voice matters and it's our responsibility to give you all the tools needed to make sure your voice carries to the ears of the men and women passing policies that govern this state that we all live in. God bless you all! All of Us.....Or None! Write to AOUON 4400 Market Street, Oakland, CA 94608

## Message from Dorsey (Continued from page 2)

I know some people say I'm aggressive, but I don't know any other way to fight.

I got out in 1981 and I have had no other job, other than fighting for the full restoration of civil human rights. I turned that into a full time job because I felt like something was missing.

We need to seriously organize as if it really really does matter.

Last year we lost ACA 3 which was trying to remove involuntary servitude out of the California State Constitution. I just thought about something. This is the reason they didn't want people like me to learn how to read and they are probably trying to stop our kids from learning to read too. But we lost the [removing involuntary servitude] fight in the middle of June. Right now we are fighting for amendment eight, because we're still trying to get it removed out of the California State Constitution

[Now ACA 8].

I cuss a lot, but my mama was a founder of the Friendship Baptist Church on the side of Bayshore freeway. She used to tell me all of these biblical stories and I used to really listen and I can still hear her voice in my mind and she's been dead for years.

If you belong to a mosque, a synagogue, or a church, don't all three of these religions respect the teachings of Moses? Or at least refer to Moses in their teachings. If we are still practicing slavery I'm not gonna ask you, "what Jesus would do?", I'm going to ask you, "what would Moses do?"

I'm going to ask you if you belong to any of these religious bodies and would you invite a formerly incarcerated person to come and speak to you in your place of worship? Would you invite them to come into your mosque, your church, or your synagogue? I hope you would agree that our voices

need to matter more, because incarcerated persons are the ones that are enslaved by this California amendment that allows involuntary servitude, which is another name for slavery. Period.



Dorsey Nunn supporting the removal of slavery in California's constitution 13th amendment (ACA 8)

# 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 our 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 ones can feed you.  
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.  
One alone her lot can't better.  
Either gun or fetter.  
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

Beaten one, who shall avenge you?  
You, on whom the blows are falling,  
Hear your wounded comrades 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?  
We who can no longer bear it.  
Counts the blows that arm our spirit.  
Taught the time by need and sorrow,  
Strikes today and not tomorrow.  
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.  
One alone our lot can't better.  
Either gun or fetter.  
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

Bertolt Brecht (1898–1956)

**AOUON is a grassroots organizing project of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC) fighting to restore the civil and human rights of formerly and currently incarcerated people and our families. Started in California in 2003, AOUON currently has chapters all over the country advocating effectively to Ban the Box, restore voting rights, increase access to housing and education, and end mass incarceration. We demand a voice in building healthy communities.**

**LSPC organizes communities impacted by the criminal justice system and advocates to release incarcerated people, to restore human and civil rights, and to reunify families and communities. We build public awareness of structural racism in policing, the courts, and prison system, and we advance racial and gender justice in all our work. Our strategies include legal support, trainings, advocacy, public education, grassroots mobilization, and developing community partnerships.**



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## All of Us or None Membership Form | Yes, I want to become a member of ALL OF US OR NONE!

Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Country of Origin: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have children? YES / NO. Do you need support with family issues? YES / NO

Earliest Parole/Release Date: \_\_\_\_\_ County of Parole/Probation: \_\_\_\_\_

- I can organize & facilitate group meeting
- I can help with membership outreach
- I can distribute materials & resources
- I can address & pass along feedback

Mail this form & any questions to:  
AOUON  
4400 Market Street  
Oakland, CA 94608

