# 1NC R4

## 1NC – Off

### CP – Adv

#### The United States Congress should

#### Amend the Fair Labor Standards Act to include prisoner protection of minimum wage and overtime pay eligibility

#### Make employment voluntary, and require vocational classes for those who choose not to work

#### Pay working inmate’s at least minimum wage

#### Require automatic wage deductions for taxes and other court ordered obligations only

#### Implement a forced 80 percent wage deduction deposited into an outside interest-bearing bank account accessible upon release

#### 1AC ev says plank 1 solves – Pen green (for all re-highlighting’s below as well)

Eisen 20 Lauren-Brooke Eisen [director of the Brennan Center’s Justice Program where she leads the organization’s work to end mass incarceration], 20 - ("Covid-19 Highlights the Need for Prison Labor Reform," Brennan Center for Justice, 4-17-2020, accessed 11-4-2021, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/covid-19-highlights-need-prison-labor-reform)//ML> // gord0

For decades, prisoners in American correctional facilities have worked for no wages or mere pennies an hour. As the United States attempts to reduce transmission of Covid-19, more than a dozen states are now relying on this captive labor force to manufacture personal protective equipment badly needed by healthcare workers and other frontline responders.¶ [Prisoners in Missouri](https://wgem.com/2020/03/31/missouri-governor-provides-updates-on-covid-19-response/) are currently earning between $0.30 and $0.71 an hour to produce hand sanitizer, toilet paper, and protective gowns that will be distributed across the state. In Louisiana, prisoners are [making hand sanitizer](https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/coronavirus/article_98081a40-74ea-11ea-b367-2774f5090b74.html) for about $0.40 an hour. And in Arkansas, where incarcerated workers are [producing](https://www.eldoradonews.com/news/2020/apr/02/state-prisoners-manufacturing-masks/) cloth masks for prisoners, correctional officers, and other government workers, their labor is entirely uncompensated.¶ This unprecedented health emergency is re-exposing how our country’s long-held practice of paying nothing or next-to-nothing for incarcerated labor, with no labor protections, is akin to modern-day slavery.¶ Prisoners are not protected by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), the federal law establishing minimum wage and overtime pay eligibility for both private sector and government workers. In 1993, a federal appeals court [held](https://casetext.com/case/harker-v-state-use-industries) that it is up to Congress, not the courts, to decide whether the FLSA applies to incarcerated workers.¶ Courts have also [ruled](https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/09/prison-labor-in-america/406177/) that the National Labor Relations Act, which guarantees the right of private sector employees to collective bargaining, does not apply in prisoners.¶ Even worse, prisoners are excluded from the U.S. Occupational Health and Safety Administration protections that require employers to provide a safe working environment. This dehumanizing lack of protection for prison workers has long subjected them to conditions that have [endangered their physical safety](https://theintercept.com/2016/12/28/california-blames-incarcerated-workers-for-unsafe-conditions-and-amputations/).¶ Amid a health threat that [worsens in crowded environments](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2020/04/09/coronavirus-hits-workers-inmates-jails-prisons-threatened/2968807001/), many prisoners are working without any mandated protections. Congress must amend the language of federal employment protections to explicitly extend to work behind bars.¶ Forced labor in prisons has its roots in the post-Civil War Reconstruction period, when Southern planters faced the need to pay the labor force that had long worked for free under brutal conditions to produce the economic capital of the South.¶ Though the 13th Amendment abolished “involuntary servitude,” it excused forcible labor as punishment for those convicted of crimes. As a result, Southern states codified punitive laws, known as the Black Codes, to arbitrarily criminalize the activity of their former slaves. Loitering and congregating after dark, among other innocuous activities, suddenly became criminal. Arrest and convictions bound these alleged criminals to terms of incarceration, often sentenced to unpaid labor for wealthy plantation owners.¶ In the following decades, Southern states — desperate for cheap labor and revenue — widely began leasing prisoners to local planters and Northern industrialists who took responsibility for their housing and feeding, a practice known as convict leasing.¶ Under this system, the captive labor market worked long hours in unsafe conditions, often treated as [poorly](https://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/10/books/10masl.html) as they had been as slaves. Records [approximate](https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=35zwA6yMbAgC&oi=fnd&pg=PP1&dq=Robert+Zieger,+%E2%80%9CFor+Jobs+and+Freedom:+Race+and+Labor+in+America+Since+1965.%E2%80%9D+&ots=EBzrbvCklq&sig=YkRKzrWlFAqE7YG00vNHgFBAPJ8#v=onepage&q=Robert%20Zieger%2C%20%E2%80%9CFor%20Jobs%20and%20Freedom%3A%20Race%20and%20Labor%20in%20America%20Since%201965.%E2%80%9D&f=false) that on an average day between 1885 and 1920, 10,000 to 20,000 prisoners — the overwhelming majority of them Black Americans — continued to toil under these insufferable circumstances.¶ In the 1930s, a [series of laws](http://www.ncpathinktank.org/pub/st206?pg=3) prohibited state prisons from using prison labor, but the federal government continued to rely on this workforce to meet the demands of the rapidly changing markets of mid-century. By 1979, Congress passed [legislation](https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/bja/203483.pdf) allowing state corrections officials to collaborate with private industries to produce prison-made goods, birthing the modern era of prison labor. ¶ Today, [approximately 55 percent](https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/csfcf05.pdf) of the American prison population works while serving their sentences. Prison jobs are broadly divided into two categories: prison support work — such as food preparation, laundry services, and maintenance work — and “correctional industries” jobs, in which prisoners might make license plates, sew military uniforms, or staff a call center. It is prisoners in correctional industries who are currently being deployed to help meet the nation’s need for protective gear.¶ While so many behind bars are manufacturing items the country desperately needs to combat our current health crisis, their low wages and lack of labor protections — among myriad other factors — mean they are not accorded the same benefits or recognition as other workers.¶ What’s more, the measly cents per hour that is typical compensation across often-dangerous prison jobs is not nearly enough to cover the court fees and fines, restitution, child support, and room and board expenses that most state departments of corrections deduct from prisoners’ earnings. When there is anything left, it is barely enough to pay for commissary goods such as food, hygienic products, and toiletries, let alone marked-up email services that prisoners rely on to stay in touch with their loved ones. Despite working for years, many prisoners are left with thousands of dollars in ~~crippling~~ debt by the time they complete their sentences.¶ In 2018, prisoners in dozens of facilities across the country went on strike and issued a [list of demands](https://incarceratedworkers.org/campaigns/prison-strike-2018), which included “an immediate end to prison slavery” and that prisoners be “paid the prevailing wage in their state or territory for their labor.”¶ This time of national emergency requires that everyone do their part to slow the spread of coronavirus. The significant shortage of face masks, protective gowns, and hand sanitizer that is putting the lives of our frontline workers in jeopardy necessitates bold and swift action. But if the states and [federal](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-06/federal-inmates-to-make-cloth-virus-masks-for-prisoners-guards) government are going to rely on correctional labor to manufacture this equipment, they need to improve the wages and labor protections of our incarcerated workers. To fail to do so is not far off from the devaluation and brutalization of slave labor that was ostensibly abandoned a century and a half ago.

#### Also says Planks 2 – 5 solve

Fulcher 15 Patrice A. Fulcher [Associate Professor at The John Marshall Law School], 15 - ("," Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development, Winter 2015, accessed 10-28-2021, <https://scholarship.law.stjohns.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1759&context=jcred)//ML> // gord0

B. Reallocate Greater Wealth To Working Prisoners and Decrease Recidivism ¶ Working for slave wages or as a slave without compensation is the harsh economic reality for millions of prisoners in the U.S. Then after succumbing to living a life as a slave for the duration of their sentence, these prisoners are released back to society, without any means of financial support from their labors. Often indigent, homeless, and unable to overcome the challenge of obtaining employment with a conviction, many former inmates reoffend.192 Moreover, for those who do secure jobs, their earnings are greatly limited by their criminal records. A recent PEW study revealed "past incarceration reduced subsequent wages by 11 percent, cut annual employment by nine weeks and reduced yearly earnings by 40 percent."1 93 As a result, U.S. recidivism rates will remain high unless former prisoners have economic resources immediately upon release. Thus, the FLSA should be emancipated from the constraints imposed, not by Congress, but by rigid and unsupported judicial interpretation that wrongly exclude working prisoners from its provisions. Free the FLSA and compensate working inmates; allow prisoners to accumulate capital while they are incarcerated, so they will have a means of support to help them rebuild their lives, and not have to commit crimes to survive. ¶ Hence, I propose the following basic guidelines in providing FLSA coverage to working inmates: (1) employment should be voluntary; those who do not wish to work must take vocational classes for their entire prison sentence, (2) working inmates should be paid at least minimum wage, (3) automatic wage deductions shall be allowed for taxes and other previous court ordered obligations only, and (4) a forced 80 percent wage deduction will be deposited into an outside interest bearing bank account, accessible only upon release. In adopting this payment scheme, the economic reality for working prisoners will be greatly improved.¶ Utilizing the total PIE quarterly statics from 2012 mentioned above in section III(B)(1)(only subtracting family costs and taxes), each of the, 4,700 inmates working in PIE programs would have received approximately $356.00 a month instead of $70.00.194 This figure represents net wages after an 80 percent deduction of $1,427.00 is transferred into an interest bearing account.1 95 Additionally, since today's prisoners serve an average of 5.2 years in prison, 196 each of the 4,700 inmates under the proposed new FLSA guidelines would have at least $3,567.50 upon his or her release if the 80% were placed in an account with an interest rate of at least a 3%. Granted, this amount may not seem significant, but it is better than expecting that a bus ticket and a knapsack of clothes will be enough to enable a person who has been incarcerated to build his life in free society. ¶

## 1NC – Off

### 1NC - DA

#### Dem efforts to “restore the Senate” are happening now — but unity and *all 50 democrats* are key

Grace Segers 21, 12-2-2021, Grace Segers is a staff writer at The New Republic. "Chuck Schumer’s Daunting Quest to “Restore the Senate”," New Republic, https://newrepublic.com/article/164582/schumer-restore-senate-voting-rights, Accessed 12-2-2021 AQ

December is a jam-packed month for the Senate, with the legislative Advent calendar including such treats as must-pass government funding and defense authorization bills and President Joe Biden’s social spending, tax, and climate bill. But in the midst of considering these priorities, Senate Democrats are also mulling how they can pass critical voting rights legislation without destroying the filibuster. This search for some middle ground between “doing nothing at all” and “going nuclear on a long-standing procedural rule” has been euphemistically referred to as “restoring the Senate” by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, harkening back to a bygone era of functionality in the upper chamber. In his November letter to Democratic colleagues outlining the hefty end-of-year to-do list for the Senate, Schumer said that the fight to pass voting rights legislation remained one of his top priorities. Republicans have blocked several bills related to voting and elections brought by Democrats this year, a feat made possible by their persistent use of the filibuster. “Even if it means going at it alone, we will continue to fight for voting rights and work to find an alternative path forward to defend the most fundamental liberty we have as citizens. To that end, a number of our colleagues—with my full support—have been discussing ideas for how to restore the Senate to protect our democracy,” Schumer said. This is not the first time Schumer has used the phrase “restore the Senate.” “Democrats will explore alternative paths to restore the Senate so it does what its framers intended: debate, deliberate, compromise, and vote,” Schumer said in a November 4 floor speech, after Republicans blocked the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would have restored a portion of the Voting Rights Act gutted by the Supreme Court. And two weeks earlier, Schumer referenced those words after Republicans blocked the Freedom to Vote Act, a slimmed-down voting and elections reform bill crafted by a group of Democrats in an effort to garner Republican support. “We need to work to restore the Senate as the world’s greatest deliberative body, so we can better serve the needs of our nation,” Schumer said on October 21. The filibuster is the elephant in the Senate chamber that’s gone unmentioned in all this talk of restoration. Most legislation requires 60 votes to advance in the Senate, and Democrats only hold 50 seats. If Democrats can’t get 10 Republican votes to limit debate on a bill, that’s a filibuster—the modern-day, optimized-for-maximum-obstruction-and-minimum-fuss version that’s become the norm, anyway. In the halcyon days of yore, senators would actually have to be present and speaking on the Senate floor if they wanted to block a bill. But a rules change in 1975 both lowered the threshold by which the Senate could advance a bill to 60 votes, with the purpose of making it easier to pass legislation, and no longer required senators to be physically present to prevent an end to debate. In theory, legislation should be able to be approved with an up-or-down simple majority vote. But that requires clearing the hurdle of limiting debate, and reaching the 60-vote threshold. Usage of the filibuster has increased dramatically in recent years, as the minority party can block any legislation it opposes. (This touches upon one of the most convincing arguments for Democrats against eliminating the filibuster—someday they will be in the minority again and will want their rights to be protected.) Republicans earlier this year blocked the For the People Act, a sweeping voting, campaign finance, and election reform bill. A group of Democrats, including several moderates, then crafted the Freedom to Vote Act in the hopes of enacting reforms that could get Republican votes; this too was filibustered, as was the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. But eliminating the filibuster altogether is likely not an option, as Senators Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema are firmly opposed to doing so. Manchin led the effort to pitch the Freedom to Vote Act to his Republican colleagues, in the hopes that a less expansive measure would attract GOP votes. Despite having been rebuffed, Manchin remains adamant in his opposition to ending the filibuster or creating a carve-out specifically for voting rights. The Senate is not an antique desk, and “restoration” will entail more than just a little varnish. Senator Angus King on Tuesday outlined some options for filibuster reform for The New Republic, such as requiring senators to be present and talking on the Senate floor if they want to block a bill, or requiring the minority to muster 41 votes to block a bill instead of putting the onus on the majority to garner 60 votes to advance it. “Right now, the filibuster is too easy. We ought to have a new word for it. It shouldn’t be the ‘filibuster,’ because it’s not what it was 50 years ago. It’s a de facto supermajority requirement, which the Framers expressly rejected,” King said. (Of course, in this prior era, the filibuster was often employed by segregationists who would hold the floor for hours in attempts to block civil rights legislation, so discussions of “restoring the Senate” refer more to how the filibuster was used than what it was used for.) Eli Zupnick, the spokesperson for the Fix Our Senate coalition, told The New Republic that while eliminating the filibuster altogether was their first choice, reform is an important first step. “The bottom line is that there are bills that need to pass. Most critically, right now, is the voting rights and anti–partisan gerrymandering legislation, the Freedom to Vote Act. And whenever it moves us in that direction, and takes steps to fix the broken Senate, is a good thing,” Zupnick said. (The Freedom to Vote Act would, among other things, ban partisan gerrymandering, but states are already beginning to unveil their new congressional district maps, and so any reform legislation may be coming too late.) Several Democratic senators have held regular meetings with Schumer to discuss the next steps for action on voting rights, including a Wednesday confab in the majority leader’s office. Schumer pledged on Wednesday morning: “We’re going to get to voting rights this year.” That timeline may be overly optimistic. Given everything else the Senate has to accomplish before the end of the year, a rules change may be one straw too many. “I don’t think you’re going to see this by the end of the year. There’s just too much stuff on the docket,” Senator Jon Tester told reporters after the meeting in Schumer’s office on Wednesday. But Tester, famously one of the most optimistic members of the Senate, also said that he believed progress had been made. “I think this is kind of like making a stew, it’s got to simmer for a bit.” Senator Tim Kaine told The New Republic on Wednesday that the focus of the meetings was on figuring out how to pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, knowing that these bills will not get sufficient Republican support. “We have to unify around a proposal that we can all agree to, but I think we’re making good progress on that,” Kaine said. When asked if Manchin was party to these conversations, Kaine said that all 50 Democrats were involved in the discussions on the next steps for voting rights legislation. “We all have thoughts about what are rules reforms that we think will be good for the operation of the Senate. And you have to kind of one-on-one talk to people about that,” Kaine said. “You have to look at reforms you think would work, whether we’re in the majority or the minority; they have to be fair to all sides.” Although Democrats have not yet agreed to a rules change that would be acceptable to all, Zupnick expressed confidence that something could be accomplished before the end of the year. “What we’re hearing from allies in the Senate is very encouraging: that there’s a lot of energy behind the idea that something needs to happen on voting rights,” Zupnick said. “That it would be catastrophic for Democrats to close out the year without doing something to protect the right to vote in 2022, to prevent partisan gerrymandering that would break the House for a decade.”

#### The plan trades off.

Kapur 21 — national political reporter for NBC News, formerly worked for Bloomberg News, TPM Media, and Inside Washington Publishers, holds a B.A. in Economics and Government from Claremont McKenna College, 2021. (Sahil; Published: March 24, 2021; “Saving the filibuster: Bipartisan group seeks to show Senate can work”; NBC News; Accessed: October 27, 2021; https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/committee-save-filibuster-bipartisan-group-seeks-show-senate-can-work-n1261935)//CYang

WASHINGTON — The survival of the Senate's effective supermajority rule to pass bills could hinge on a working group of 20 senators that includes the most moderate members in both parties. If the group can cut deals and deliver victories, it could become the model for lawmaking under President Joe Biden. If it fails, the Democratic-led Congress will face pressure to pursue partisan avenues to enact its ambitious agenda, including the simple-majority budget process and nixing the filibuster. The group, evenly divided between the two parties, is off to a rough start. It was sidelined for the $1.9 trillion Covid-19 relief package. It is ill-defined and lacks a clear focus or method. It has yet to show signs of success in the new presidency.

Its ability to prove that the Senate can function under the 60-vote requirement carries high stakes for the future of the chamber — and for politics and policymaking over the next four years. "The argument against the filibuster is that nothing happens and it's all obstruction. And if we can make it work, we can get legislation passed without changing the rules," said Sen. Angus King of Maine, an independent who caucuses with Democrats and has worked across the aisle.

#### That’s key to effective climate mitigation strategies.

Kaplan and Davenport 19 — Kaplan is a correspondent in the Washington bureau of The New York Times. He joined The Times in 2010 and has reported on politics and government for the past decade. Davenport covers energy and environmental policy, with a focus on climate change, from The Times's Washington bureau. (Thomas and Carol; Published: July 10, 2019; “Ambitious Climate Plans Might Need a Radical Legislative One: Ending the Filibuster”; New York Times; Accessed: October 27, 2021; <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/10/us/politics/climate-change-filibuster.html)//CYang>

Former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. wants to put a price on greenhouse emissions with the aim of eliminating the United States’ net planet-warming pollution by 2050. Former Representative Beto O’Rourke of Texas has a $5 trillion proposal to promote clean energy and help communities adapt to global warming. Gov. Jay Inslee of Washington has centered his entire campaign on addressing climate change, with policies designed to eventually freeze the nation’s fossil fuel production entirely. Tom Steyer, the California billionaire who entered the race on Tuesday, plans to focus his campaign in part on climate change.

But even if a green-minded Democrat wins the White House, dramatic action to reverse climate change could very well require another radical change in Washington: the elimination of the Senate filibuster. Climate legislation is hardly the only issue that might lead either party to do away with the filibuster, which allows a minority of senators to block most legislation from receiving a vote unless 60 senators agree to cut off debate. But climate change, with its high stakes, is increasingly being viewed as one of the issues that could finally push Democrats, who remain deeply divided over the filibuster, to kill it off for good, if given the chance.

“Climate change is an existential threat, and there is just no way to deal with climate change without getting rid of the filibuster,” Mr. Inslee said. “You cannot allow an arcane, antebellum, antiquated procedure to block progress.”

#### Warming causes extinction — leads to severe weather conditions, ecosystem collapse and armed conflict.

Sprat and Dunlop 19 — Spratt is Research Director for Breakthrough National Centre for Climate Restoration, Melbourne, and co-author of Climate Code Red: The case for emergency action. Dunlop is a member of the Club of Rome. Formerly an international oil, gas and coal industry executive, chairman of the Australian Coal Association, chief executive of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and chair of the Australian Greenhouse Office Experts Group on Emissions Trading 1998-2000. (David and Ian; Published: May 2019; “Existential climate-related security risk: A scenario approach”; Breakthrough Policy Paper; Accessed: April 9, 2021; http://mycoasts.org/commons/library/2019\_Spratt\_Dunlop.pdf)//CYang

2050: By 2050, there is broad scientific acceptance that system tipping-points for the West Antarctic Ice Sheet and a sea-ice-free Arctic summer were passed well before 1.5°C of warming, for the Greenland Ice Sheet well before 2°C, and for widespread permafrost loss and large-scale Amazon drought and dieback by 2.5°C. The “hothouse Earth” scenario has been realised, and Earth is headed for another degree or more of warming, especially since human greenhouse emissions are still significant. 20

While sea levels have risen 0.5 metres by 2050, the increase may be 2-3 metres by 2100, and it is understood from historical analogues that seas may eventually rise by more than 25 metres. Thirty-five percent of the global land area, and 55 percent of the global population, are subject to more than 20 days a year of lethal heat conditions, beyond the threshold of human survivability.

The destabilisation of the Jet Stream has very significantly affected the intensity and geographical distribution of the Asian and West African monsoons and, together with the further slowing of the Gulf Stream, is impinging on life support systems in Europe. North America suffers from devastating weather extremes including wildfires, heatwaves, drought and inundation. The summer monsoons in China have failed, and water flows into the great rivers of Asia are severely reduced by the loss of more than one-third of the Himalayan ice sheet. Glacial loss reaches 70 percent in the Andes, and rainfall in Mexico and central America falls by half. Semi-permanent El Nino conditions prevail. Aridification emerges over more than 30 percent of the world’s land surface. Desertification is severe in southern Africa, the southern Mediterranean, west Asia, the Middle East, inland Australia and across the south-western United States.

Impacts: A number of ecosystems collapse, including coral reef systems, the Amazon rainforest and in the Arctic.

Some poorer nations and regions, which lack capacity to provide artificially-cooled environments for their populations, become unviable. Deadly heat conditions persist for more than 100 days per year in West Africa, tropical South America, the Middle East and South-East Asia, contributing to more than a billion people being displaced from the tropical zone.

Water availability decreases sharply in the most affected regions at lower latitudes (dry tropics and subtropics), affecting about two billion people worldwide. Agriculture becomes nonviable in the dry subtropics.

Most regions in the world see a significant drop in food production and increasing numbers of extreme weather events, including heat waves, floods and storms. Food production is inadequate to feed the global population and food prices skyrocket, as a consequence of a one-fifth decline in crop yields, a decline in the nutrition content of food crops, a catastrophic decline in insect populations, desertification, monsoon failure and chronic water shortages, and conditions too hot for human habitation in significant food-growing regions.

The lower reaches of the agriculturally-important river deltas such as the Mekong, Ganges and Nile are inundated, and significant sectors of some of the world’s most populous cities — including Chennai, Mumbai, Jakarta, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh City, Shanghai, Lagos, Bangkok and Manila — are abandoned. Some small islands become uninhabitable. Ten percent of Bangladesh is inundated, displacing 15 million people.

Even for 2°C of warming, more than a billion people may need to be relocated and In high-end scenarios, the scale of destruction is beyond our capacity to model, with a high likelihood of human civilisation coming to an end. National security consequences: For pragmatic reasons associated with providing only a sketch of this scenario, we take the conclusion of the Age of Consequences ‘Severe’ 3°C scenario developed by a group of senior US national-security figures in 2007 as appropriate for our scenario too:

Massive nonlinear events in the global environment give rise to massive nonlinear societal events. In this scenario, nations around the world will be overwhelmed by the scale of change and pernicious challenges, such as pandemic disease. The internal cohesion of nations will be under great stress, including in the United States, both as a result of a dramatic rise in migration and changes in agricultural patterns and water availability. The flooding of coastal communities around the world, especially in the Netherlands, the United States, South Asia, and China, has the potential to challenge regional and even national identities. Armed conflict between nations over resources, such as the Nile and its tributaries, is likely and nuclear war is possible. The social consequences range from increased religious fervor to outright chaos. In this scenario, climate change provokes a permanent shift in the relationship of humankind to nature’. (emphasis added)

## 1NC – Off

### P – Aspec

#### The affirmative must specify which actor of the United States does the aff in the 1ac. That’s best for agent counterplans, which encourage critical thinking and robust policy education by discussing facets of implementation. The implication is to stick them with congress.

## 1NC – Off

### 1NC

#### The global stock market is high now, but liquidity can end soon

Economic Times 10/21 [The Economic Times, October 21, 2021. “What is keeping the stock market high despite the growing pessimism?” [https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/watch-crypto-challenge-by-coinswitch-kuber-ep-3/articleshow/87311600.cms Accessed 10/27](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/watch-crypto-challenge-by-coinswitch-kuber-ep-3/articleshow/87311600.cms%20Accessed%2010/27) //gord0]

Stock market is making new highs every passing day. With every move, there is a rising nervousness about stretched valuations. As the world attempted to recover its economy, central banks opened the floodgates of liquidity which led to the relentless rally into the global stock markets. And India has been a prime beneficiary of it.

However, it is only a matter of time now before the dose of liquidity ends. The Federal Reserve has already announced its tapering program. Back home, RBI has also mirrored similar sentiments, taking first steps towards impending liquidity squeeze in its October MPC meeting.

Apart from liquidity squeeze, persistent commodity inflation, slowdown in China, global energy crisis, and India's very own issue of coal shortage, has kept the investors on the hook.

Clearly, with every new high that the market is scaling, the risk-reward ratio is turning unfavourable for investors. There is a growing pessimism among investors. However, the stock market has refused to budge from its current elevated levels.

It has left investors wondering- what is keeping the stock market high despite the growing pessimism?

**Growing Pace of Recovery**

Several indicators are pointing at a strong trend of recovery in the Indian economy post the second Covid-19 wave. With that, international investors are showing confidence in the India story.

The IMF has backed India to reclaim its tag of the fastest growing economy in the world.IMF expects India to clock a growth rate of 9.5% in FY22 and 8.5% in FY23 in its latest report.

Global rating agency Moody's has also recently upgraded India's sovereign credit rating outlook to stable from negative. Moody's has lowered its assessment about the declining downside risks in the financial system as the banks have come out of the pandemic relatively unscathed.

**Expectation of Strong Earnings**

The pandemic has fastened the trend of consolidation in favour of organised sector. They have managed to gain market share at the expense of MSMEs and unorganized sectors.

Majority of Nifty50 companies are expected to deliver strong earnings despite the inflationary pressure. The expectation of a strong festival season is also keeping the optimism of strong earnings intact.

**Push for Privatisation**

Air India's privatization has been a watershed moment for India’s disinvestment drive.It has built a positive narrative around the strong pro-business mind set of the government.

With Air India's privatization,the market is expecting quicker resolution of impending proposals as well.In a recent interview,Tuhin Kanta Pandey, secretary, DIPAM (department of investment and public asset management) expressed confidence that privatisation of Neelachal Ispat and Central Electronics could be completed during the December quarter.He also expects the sale of BPCL and BEML along with the LIC IPO to be concluded by March'22.

**Buoyant Manufacturing, Growing Exports**

A part of market buoyancy is also a reflection of stellar performance of the manufacturing sector. India's industrial production has been impressive since the receding of the second Covid-19 wave. India's IIP has grown in double digit at 13.6%, 11.5% and 11.9% respectively for June,July and August 2021.

India’s exports are clocking the highest ever growth rates due to the rise in global demand. Exports for the period April-September 2021 grew at 57.50% at $197.89 billion as against $125.62 billion a year ago.

**New Listings, Unicorns:A Move Toward New Economy**

India has witnessed a flurry of IPOs from fintech and consumer tech space. These new age tech-based IPOs are expected to help India's market capitalisation to raise exponentially as India is fast moving towards a new economy.

Rising number of unicorns have also given a major boost to India's rising credentials among the foreign investors. As many as 33 start-ups have attained a unicorn status as of October 2021- the highest ever in a calendar year.

**Closing Comments**

The government has shown a strong intent towards economic recovery with several initiatives like privatisation, formation of a bad bank, launching of PLI scheme reforms in telecom sector and farm laws. The market is expecting the pace of reforms to continue till 2024 which has kept the market resilient despite the stretched valuations and rising risk of correction.

#### Best data proves union strike victories statistically cause stock market crash.

Lee and Mas 12 [David; Princeton University and National Bureau of Economic Research; Alexandre; Princeton University and National Bureau of Economic Research; “Long-Run Impacts of Unions on Firms: New Evidence from Financial Markets, 1961–1999,” The Quarterly Journal Of Economics; February 2012; <https://academic.oup.com/qje/article-abstract/127/1/333/1834007?redirectedFrom=fulltext>] Justin

We begin analyzing the stock market reaction to union victories using event-study methodologies. The most distinctive feature of our data—crucial for our research design—is the long panel (up to 48 months before and after the election) of high frequency data on stock market returns for each firm. This feature allows us to use the pre-event data to test the adequacy of the benchmarks used to predict the counterfactual returns in the postevent period. The long panel also allows us to examine returns several months beyond the event, so as to capture the long-run expected effects of new unions, without having to rely heavily on the assumption that the stock price immediately and instantaneously adjusts to capture the expected presence of the unions.9

Our event-study analysis reveals substantial losses in market value following a union election victory—about a 10% decline in market value, equivalent to about $40,500 per unionized worker. According to our calculations, if unionization represented a one-to-one transfer from investors to workers through higher wages, this magnitude would be in line with a union wage premium of 10%. Because the total loss of market value represents the sum of transfers to workers and any other productivity impacts of unionization this implies, for example, that if the true union compensation premium were greater than 10%, there would be positive productivity effects of unions. The evidence supporting our event-study estimates is compelling: we find that these firms’ average returns are quite close to the benchmark returns every month leading up to the election, but precisely at the time of the election, the actual and benchmark returns diverge. The results for these firms are robust to a number of different specifications. In the sample of firms where we know that the union is a small fraction of the workforce, we donot find a similar divergence of returns from the benchmark.

Importantly, we find that the effect takes 15 to 18 months to fully materialize, a somewhat slow market reaction. As we discuss, this short-run mispricing can persist if exploiting the slow reaction is not sufficiently profitable to arbitrageurs. Indeed, our own analysis shows that strategies designed to exploit the mispricing entail a significant degree of fundamental risk. The fact that union victories are sufficiently rare and spread throughout time prevents the necessary diversification that could generate an attractive arbitrage opportunity. For example, our analysis suggests that attempts to exploit the short-lived mispricing would lead to a portfolio that would be dominated by simple buy-and hold strategies

The event-study estimate appears to average a great deal of heterogeneity in the effects. We additionally employ a regression discontinuity (RD) design, implicitly comparing close union victories to close union losses, and consistent with DiNardo and Lee (2004), we find little evidence of a significant discontinuous relationship between the vote share and market returns. If anything, the RD point estimates show a 4% positive (though statistically insignificant) effect of union certification (vis-`a-vis union defeat). The event-study estimates vary systematically by the observed vote share, with the largest negative abnormal returns for cases where the union won the election by a large margin.

#### Crashes lead to a great depression.

Rusoff 21 [Jane; ThinkAdvisor Contributing Editor specializing in interviews with thought leaders. She has written for The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today and Esquire, among numerous other publications. Author/co-author of five books, Jane was a staff editor at London Express Features and Billboard’s Merchandising Magazine; “Harry Dent: ‘Biggest Crash Ever’ Likely by End of June,” ThinkAdvisor; 3/10/21; <https://www.thinkadvisor.com/2021/03/10/harry-dent-biggest-crash-ever-likely-by-end-of-june/>] Justin

Why will the downturn that you see be so harsh?

The only reason the 2008 downturn didn’t turn into a depression was that they turned on the monetary spigots so hard and blew us out of it, which kept the bubble going. They kept printing money and put it off. Now we’ve got a bigger bubble. This downturn is going to be the Great Depression that the deep recession of 2008 was [falling into].

How long do you think the depression will last?

If the economy finally falls apart after this much stimulus, economists will flip from being endlessly bullish to endlessly bearish. They’ll say, “Now we’re in a decade-long-plus depression, like the 1930s.” But I’ll say, “Nope, this thing will be hell: It’s going to do its work very fast. By 2024, it will be over.” By 2023 or 2024, we’re going to be coming out of it into what I call the next Spring Boom.

Right now, you favor investing in Treasury bonds. What’s your strategy?

Man, what’s better than sleeping with 30-year Treasury bonds — the safest investment in the reserve currency of a country that’s in big trouble — but not as much as Europe and Japan are in and nowhere near as much as China is in. We’re in the best house in a bad neighborhood.

What will happen to the 30-year Treasury bond during the massive crash you foresee?

It’s going to fall to half a percent and maybe zero. It will expand your money 30%, 40%, 50%, while stocks are crashing 70%, 80%, 90%. Real estate will go down 30%, 40%, 50%. Commodities are already down 50% and are going down another 30% or 40%. Everything is going to default. Cash will preserve your money. The 30-year Treasury will magnify your money.

So, do you think 50% of an investment portfolio should be in Treasurys?

If you’re willing to take more risk, you’ll have one bucket in long-term U.S. Treasury bonds and maybe in a few other good governments, like Sweden or Australia. Triple-A corporates could go in there too. Then you’ll have another bucket — of short stocks, not leveraged.

Stocks are very volatile on the way down. You can also be in REITs that are in very solid areas, like multi-family housing in affordable cities and medical facilities because those will hold up the best.

There’s a discernable euphoria now among investors. But John Templeton, the renowned investor and fund manager, famously said that “bull markets die on euphoria.” Do you agree with that?

Yes. And Jeremy Grantham [GMO co-founder] said [on Jan. 5] this level of euphoria means you’re within months — not years — of a major bubble peak. You’re at the end.

Wil cryptocurrency be part of that huge crash?

Yes. I think Bitcoin is the big thing long term and that crypto and blockchain is a big trend. It’s like the internet of finance — money and assets — instead of information. So it’s a big deal — but in its early stages.

Bitcoin is going to go to 58 [thousand], 60, 80 — and then end up back at 3,000 to 4,000. I would buy it long term, a couple of years from now. I wouldn’t touch it between now and then.

What are your expectations for the economy once the pandemic substantially fades?

Some industries are never going to come back. We’re not back to where we were before COVID — by GDP or any other major indicator. Everybody is acting like “When we get over COVID, we’ll be back better than ever.” The stock market is already anticipating that. But it’s wrong.

The only reason people are spending is because the government handed businesses and consumers tons of money. But it will get to a point where it’s not going to matter how much money is printed — and then you’ll have an avalanche. A huge collapse is coming.

What specifically will cause it?

There’s is no way you can [keep] having fake earnings, fake GDP, fake interest rates and super-high valuations. Financial assets have to come down to reality.

What are the implications?

Loans will fail by the boatload. Then money disappears. That causes bank and business failures. We have to get all the financial leverage, financial assets and debt out of our economy.

Twenty percent of public companies are zombies. They can’t even pay their debt service in a growth economy. They’re already dead. We’ve just keeping them alive with embalming.

#### Extinction.

Liu '18 [Qian; 11/13/18; Managing Director of Greater China for The Economist Group, previously director of the global economics unit and director of Access China for the Economist Intelligence Unit, PhD in economics from Uppsala University; "The next economic crisis could cause a global conflict. Here's why," <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/11/the-next-economic-crisis-could-cause-a-global-conflict-heres-why/>] Justin

The next economic crisis is closer than you think. But what you should really worry about is what comes after: in the current social, political, and technological landscape, a prolonged economic crisis, combined with rising income inequality, could well escalate into a major global military conflict. The 2008-09 global financial crisis almost bankrupted governments and caused systemic collapse. Policymakers managed to pull the global economy back from the brink, using massive monetary stimulus, including quantitative easing and near-zero (or even negative) interest rates. But monetary stimulus is like an adrenaline shot to jump-start an arrested heart; it can revive the patient, but it does nothing to cure the disease. Treating a sick economy requires structural reforms, which can cover everything from financial and labor markets to tax systems, fertility patterns, and education policies. Policymakers have utterly failed to pursue such reforms, despite promising to do so. Instead, they have remained preoccupied with politics. From Italy to Germany, forming and sustaining governments now seems to take more time than actual governing. And Greece, for example, has relied on money from international creditors to keep its head (barely) above water, rather than genuinely reforming its pension system or improving its business environment. The lack of structural reform has meant that the unprecedented excess liquidity that central banks injected into their economies was not allocated to its most efficient uses. Instead, it raised global asset prices to levels even higher than those prevailing before 2008. In the United States, housing prices are now 8% higher than they were at the peak of the property bubble in 2006, according to the property website Zillow. The price-to-earnings (CAPE) ratio, which measures whether stock-market prices are within a reasonable range, is now higher than it was both in 2008 and at the start of the Great Depression in 1929. As monetary tightening reveals the vulnerabilities in the real economy, the collapse of asset-price bubbles will trigger another economic crisis – one that could be even more severe than the last, because we have built up a tolerance to our strongest macroeconomic medications. A decade of regular adrenaline shots, in the form of ultra-low interest rates and unconventional monetary policies, has severely depleted their power to stabilize and stimulate the economy. If history is any guide, the consequences of this mistake could extend far beyond the economy. According to Harvard’s Benjamin Friedman, prolonged periods of economic distress have been characterized also by public antipathy toward minority groups or foreign countries – attitudes that can help to fuel unrest, terrorism, or even war. For example, during the Great Depression, US President Herbert Hoover signed the 1930 Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, intended to protect American workers and farmers from foreign competition. In the subsequent five years, global trade shrank by two-thirds. Within a decade, World War II had begun. To be sure, WWII, like World War I, was caused by a multitude of factors; there is no standard path to war. But there is reason to believe that high levels of inequality can play a significant role in stoking conflict. According to research by the economist Thomas Piketty, a spike in income inequality is often followed by a great crisis. Income inequality then declines for a while, before rising again, until a new peak – and a new disaster. Though causality has yet to be proven, given the limited number of data points, this correlation should not be taken lightly, especially with wealth and income inequality at historically high levels. This is all the more worrying in view of the numerous other factors stoking social unrest and diplomatic tension, including technological disruption, a record-breaking migration crisis, anxiety over globalization, political polarization, and rising nationalism. All are symptoms of failed policies that could turn out to be trigger points for a future crisis. Voters have good reason to be frustrated, but the emotionally appealing populists to whom they are increasingly giving their support are offering ill-advised solutions that will only make matters worse. For example, despite the world’s unprecedented interconnectedness, multilateralism is increasingly being eschewed, as countries – most notably, Donald Trump’s US – pursue unilateral, isolationist policies. Meanwhile, proxy wars are raging in Syria and Yemen. Against this background, we must take seriously the possibility that the next economic crisis could lead to a large-scale military confrontation. By the logic of the political scientist Samuel Huntington , considering such a scenario could help us avoid it, because it would force us to take action. In this case, the key will be for policymakers to pursue the structural reforms that they have long promised, while replacing finger-pointing and antagonism with a sensible and respectful global dialogue. The alternative may well be global conflagration.

## 1NC – Off

### T – Unconditional

#### Interpretation: The unconditional right to strike must be absolute. Limitations and conditions violate.

American Heritage Dictionary [American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.]

Without conditions or limitations; absolute: demanded unconditional surrender.

#### Violation: You specify incarcerated workers

#### Vote Neg for Limits and ground – their model allows affs to defend anything from teachers to doctors to the police— there's no universal DA since each has different functions and political implications — that explodes neg prep and leads to random worker of the week affs which makes cutting stable neg links impossible.

#### TVA solves clash/overlimiting – read your plan as an advantage under a whole res advocacy.

#### Competing Interps on T since its binary and a question of models—reasonability arbitrary and invites judge intervention

## 1NC – Framing

### Extinction First!

#### Extinction first---ethical obligation to future generations and forecloses massive potential value.

GPP 17 – [(Global Priorities Project, Future of Humanity Institute at the University of Oxford, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland) "Existential Risk: Diplomacy and Governance," 2017, Global Priorities Project, <https://www.fhi.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/Existential-Risks-2017-01-23.pdf>] TDI

In his book Reasons and Persons, Oxford philosopher Derek Parfit advanced an influential argument about the importance of avoiding extinction:

I believe that if we destroy mankind, as we now can, this outcome will be much worse than most people think. Compare three outcomes:

(1) Peace.

(2) A nuclear war that kills 99% of the world’s existing population.

(3) A nuclear war that kills 100%.

(2) would be worse than (1), and (3) would be worse than (2). Which is the greater of these two differences? Most people believe that the greater difference is between (1) and (2). I believe that the difference between (2) and (3) is very much greater. ... The Earth will remain habitable for at least another billion years. Civilization began only a few thousand years ago. If we do not destroy mankind, these few thousand years may be only a tiny fraction of the whole of civilized human history. The difference between (2) and (3) may thus be the difference between this tiny fraction and all of the rest of this history. If we compare this possible history to a day, what has occurred so far is only a fraction of a second.65

In this argument, it seems that Parfit is assuming that the survivors of a nuclear war that kills 99% of the population would eventually be able to recover civilisation without long-term effect. As we have seen, this may not be a safe assumption – but for the purposes of this thought experiment, the point stands. What makes existential catastrophes especially bad is that they would “destroy the future,” as another Oxford philosopher, Nick Bostrom, puts it.66 This future could potentially be extremely long and full of flourishing, and would therefore have extremely large value. In standard risk analysis, when working out how to respond to risk, we work out the expected value of risk reduction, by weighing the probability that an action will prevent an adverse event against the severity of the event. Because the value of preventing existential catastrophe is so vast, even a tiny probability of prevention has huge expected value.67

Of course, there is persisting reasonable disagreement about ethics and there are a number of ways one might resist this conclusion.68 Therefore, it would be unjustified to be overconfident in Parfit and Bostrom’s argument.

In some areas, government policy does give significant weight to future generations. For example, in assessing the risks of nuclear waste storage, governments have considered timeframes of thousands, hundreds of thousands, and even a million years.69 Justifications for this policy usually appeal to principles of intergenerational equity according to which future generations ought to get as much protection as current generations.70 Similarly, widely accepted norms of sustainable development require development that meets the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.71

However, when it comes to existential risk, it would seem that we fail to live up to principles of intergenerational equity. Existential catastrophe would not only give future generations less than the current generations; it would give them nothing. Indeed, reducing existential risk plausibly has a quite low cost for us in comparison with the huge expected value it has for future generations. In spite of this, relatively little is done to reduce existential risk. Unless we give up on norms of intergenerational equity, they give us a strong case for significantly increasing our efforts to reduce existential risks.

#### Risk is magnitude times probability—balances their framing with ours—BUT, probability first falls prey to psychological biases and leads to mass death.

Clarke ‘8 [Lee, member of a National Academy of Science committee that considered decision-making models, Anschutz Distinguished Scholar at Princeton University, Fellow of AAAS, Professor Sociology (Rutgers), Ph.D. (SUNY), “Possibilistic Thinking: A New Conceptual Tool for Thinking about Extreme Events,” Fall, Social Research 75.3, JSTOR]

In scholarly work, the subfield of disasters is often seen as narrow. One reason for this is that a lot of scholarship on disasters is practically oriented, for obvious reasons, and the social sciences have a deep-seated suspicion of practical work. This is especially true in sociology. Tierney (2007b) has treated this topic at length, so there is no reason to repeat the point here. There is another, somewhat unappreciated reason that work on disaster is seen as narrow, a reason that holds some irony for the main thrust of my argument here: disasters are unusual and the social sciences are generally biased toward phenomena that are frequent. Methods textbooks caution against using case stud- ies as representative of anything, and articles in mainstreams journals that are not based on probability samples must issue similar obligatory caveats. The premise, itself narrow, is that the only way to be certain that we know something about the social world, and the only way to control for subjective influences in data acquisition, is to follow the tenets of probabilistic sampling. This view is a correlate of the central way of defining rational action and rational policy in academic work of all varieties and also in much practical work, which is to say in terms of probabilities. The irony is that probabilistic thinking has its own biases, which, if unacknowledged and uncorrected for, lead to a conceptual neglect of extreme events. This leaves us, as scholars, paying attention to disasters only when they happen and doing that makes the accumulation of good ideas about disaster vulnerable to issue-attention cycles (Birkland, 2007). These conceptual blinders lead to a neglect of disasters as "strategic research sites" (Merton, 1987), which results in learning less about disaster than we could and in missing opportunities to use disaster to learn about society (cf. Sorokin, 1942). We need new conceptual tools because of an upward trend in frequency and severity of disaster since 1970 (Perrow, 2007), and because of a growing intellectual attention to the idea of worst cases (Clarke, 2006b; Clarke, in press). For instance, the chief scientist in charge of studying earthquakes for the US Geological Service, Lucile Jones, has worked on the combination of events that could happen in California that would constitute a "give up scenario": a very long-shaking earthquake in southern California just when the Santa Anna winds are making everything dry and likely to burn. In such conditions, meaningful response to the fires would be impossible and recovery would take an extraordinarily long time. There are other similar pockets of scholarly interest in extreme events, some spurred by September 11 and many catalyzed by Katrina. The consequences of disasters are also becoming more severe, both in terms of lives lost and property damaged. People and their places are becoming more vulnerable. The most important reason that vulnerabilities are increasing is population concentration (Clarke, 2006b). This is a general phenomenon and includes, for example, flying in jumbo jets, working in tall buildings, and attending events in large capacity sports arenas. Considering disasters whose origin is a natural hazard, the specific cause of increased vulnerability is that people are moving to where hazards originate, and most especially to where the water is. In some places, this makes them vulnerable to hurricanes that can create devastating storm surges; in others it makes them vulnerable to earthquakes that can create tsunamis. In any case, the general problem is that people concentrate themselves in dangerous places, so when the hazard comes disasters are intensified. More than one-half of Florida's population lives within 20 miles of the sea. Additionally, Florida's population grows every year, along with increasing development along the coasts. The risk of exposure to a devastating hurricane is obviously high in Florida. No one should be surprised if during the next hurricane season Florida becomes the scene of great tragedy. The demographic pressures and attendant development are wide- spread. People are concentrating along the coasts of the United States, and, like Florida, this puts people at risk of water-related hazards. Or consider the Pacific Rim, the coastline down the west coasts of North and South America, south to Oceania, and then up the eastern coast- line of Asia. There the hazards are particularly threatening. Maps of population concentration around the Pacific Rim should be seen as target maps, because along those shorelines are some of the most active tectonic plates in the world. The 2004 Indonesian earthquake and tsunami, which killed at least 250,000 people, demonstrated the kind of damage that issues from the movement of tectonic plates. (Few in the United States recognize that there is a subduction zone just off the coast of Oregon and Washington that is quite similar to the one in Indonesia.) Additionally, volcanoes reside atop the meeting of tectonic plates; the typhoons that originate in the Pacific Ocean generate furiously fatal winds. Perrow (2007) has generalized the point about concentration, arguing not only that we increase vulnerabilities by increasing the breadth and depth of exposure to hazards but also by concentrating industrial facilities with catastrophic potential. Some of Perrow's most important examples concern chemical production facilities. These are facilities that bring together in a single place multiple stages of production used in the production of toxic substances. Key to Perrow's argument is that there is no technically necessary reason for such concentration, although there may be good economic reasons for it. The general point is that we can expect more disasters, whether their origins are "natural" or "technological." We can also expect more death and destruction from them. I predict we will continue to be poorly prepared to deal with disaster. People around the world were appalled with the incompetence of America's leaders and orga- nizations in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Day after day we watched people suffering unnecessarily. Leaders were slow to grasp the importance of the event. With a few notable exceptions, organi- zations lumbered to a late rescue. Setting aside our moral reaction to the official neglect, perhaps we ought to ask why we should have expected a competent response at all? Are US leaders and organiza- tions particularly attuned to the suffering of people in disasters? Is the political economy of the United States organized so that people, espe- cially poor people, are attended to quickly and effectively in noncri- sis situations? The answers to these questions are obvious. If social systems are not arranged to ensure people's well-being in normal times, there is no good reason to expect them to be so inclined in disastrous times. Still, if we are ever going to be reasonably well prepared to avoid or respond to the next Katrina-like event, we need to identify the barriers to effective thinking about, and effective response to, disas- ters. One of those barriers is that we do not have a set of concepts that would help us think rigorously about out-sized events. The chief toolkit of concepts that we have for thinking about important social events comes from probability theory. There are good reasons for this, as probability theory has obviously served social research well. Still, the toolkit is incomplete when it comes to extreme events, especially when it is used as a base whence to make normative judgments about what people, organizations, and governments should and should not do. As a complement to probabilistic thinking I propose that we need possibilistic thinking. In this paper I explicate the notion of possibilistic thinking. I first discuss the equation of probabilism with rationality in scholarly thought, followed by a section that shows the ubiquity of possibilis- tic thinking in everyday life. Demonstrating the latter will provide an opportunity to explore the limits of the probabilistic approach: that possibilistic thinking is widespread suggests it could be used more rigorously in social research. I will then address the most vexing prob- lem with advancing and employing possibilistic thinking: the prob- lem of infinite imagination. I argue that possibilism can be used with discipline, and that we can be smarter about responding to disasters by doing so.

### AT: Probability

#### Ansell –

#### 1] Our framework says structural violence matters too, but if minorities are dead then we can’t minimize that.

#### 2] If challenging all structures that challenge structural violence is important then the aff is insufficient because it only focuses on incarcerated workers

#### Ethics –

#### Says the state is bad, but the aff uses the state

#### Compound Probability and Causal Direction –

#### 1] doesn’t assume structure of debate where dropped arguments are presumed true

#### 2] Reliant on them reducing the risk of our scenario’s – they have to read defense, you don’t just artificially reduce the risk of stuff

#### Complexity and Gridlock –

#### Aff is also simplistic because it’s a debate and we only have 45 minutes, but our scenario’s aren’t because we’ve cut evidence that supports it. No one writes about butterflies flapping their wings causing extinction but they do write about existential climate change.

## 1NC – Advantage

### Adv – Incarceration

#### Prisoners strike now.

**1AC Kozlowska 16** [Hanna is a reporter on Quartz's investigations team. She previously worked for The New York Times as a writer for NYT Opinion and was a fellow at Foreign Policy magazine. She was also a stringer for the Times in Poland. “US prisoners are going on strike to protest a massive forced labor system”. 9-06-2016. Quartz. https://qz.com/777415/an-unprecedented-prison-strike-hopes-to-change-the-fate-of-the-900000-americans-trapped-in-an-exploitative-labor-system/. Accessed 11-1-2021; MJen // gord0]

On Friday (Sept. 9) prison inmates across the US will participate in what organizers are touting as the “largest prison strike in history,” stopping work in protest of what many call a modern version of slavery. The protest, organized across 24 states, is spearheaded by the inmate-led Free Alabama Movement (FAM) and coordinated by the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC), a branch of an international labor union. Its manifesto, published online by “prisoners across the United States,” reads: This is a call to end slavery in America…To every prisoner in every state and federal institution across this land, we call on you to stop being a slave, to let the crops rot in the plantation fields, to go on strike and cease reproducing the institutions of your confinement. The strike will be held on the 45th anniversary of the Attica prison revolt, when prisoners took control of a maximum-security correctional facility near Buffalo, New York, demanding better conditions and an end to their brutal treatment. Today, nearly 900,000 US prisoners work while incarcerated. The Bureau of Prisons, which oversees all federal inmates requires that all prisoners (barring medical reasons) work. State prisoners are in the same boat; according to Eric Fink, a professor at Elon Law school, in all or nearly all US states prisoners must work. If they refuse, they can be punished with solitary confinement, revoking visitation, or other measures. Inmates receive very little pay for their labor—in federal prisons it ranges from $0.12 to $0.40 an hour. In some states, like Texas, those held at state prisons receive zero compensation. The majority of inmates work on prison maintenance and upkeep—cleaning, cooking, etc.—but approximately 80,000 do work for the outside world. Sometimes these jobs are the result of government contracts; other times, prisoners end up doing work for private companies such as Victoria’s Secret, Whole Foods or Walmart. Unlike other American workers, these prisoners are not protected by labor laws. They don’t have access to worker’s compensation, they get payed well below the minimum wage, and they cannot effectively form unions. Courts have ruled that because the relationship between prisons and inmates is not that of an employer and a worker, inmates don’t get these labor protections. According to The Nation, there is a faction among the organizers that would rather see prison labor abolished, but IWOC is pushing for inmates to unionize. “Prisoners are the most exploited labor class in this country,” says Azzurra Crispino, spokesperson for the organization. The moral case to let prisoners unionize and have the protections given to civilian workers is straightforward: forcing people to work is inhumane, as are the ridiculously low wages and often the labor conditions themselves. The economic case is much more complex. Prisons argue that paying inmates a minimum wage would bankrupt them—in fact, Alex Friedmann, an editor for Prison Legal News told The American Prospect that the criminal justice system would collapse has little potential to significantly add to the GDP, there are longer-term and broader effects to consider. Higher wages can help not only inmates, but their dependents in the outside world, who might avoid ending up on welfare having greater support. Cheap inmate labor may save money for prisons or corporations, but meaningful, decently-paid employment and job training could reduce recidivism and future crime. Ultimately, it’s the taxpayers who pay for most of the criminal justice system, and that means they are subsidizing cheap labor for big corporations instead of investing in reducing crime in the future. In addition to putting pressure on individual institutions, strike organizers are hoping to raise awareness among the public. “Nothing is preventing employers from paying prisoners a decent wage and offering benefits and after 300 years it’s pretty clear it isn’t going to happen on its own. No more than slavery was ended in this country because slave owners got enlightened,” said Paul Wright, editor of Prison Legal News and prisoner rights advocate. “Alas, there is no General Sherman coming to rescue and liberate America’s prison slaves.”

#### Protests don’t work, but they do spark backlash – Georgia proves.

1AC Fulcher 15 Patrice A. Fulcher [Associate Professor at The John Marshall Law School], 15 - ("," Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development, Winter 2015, accessed 10-28-2021, <https://scholarship.law.stjohns.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1759&context=jcred)//ML> // gord0

**B.**87 In 2011, FPI's net sales were 745 million dollars and their earnings were 62 million dollars.88 Restricted to sell its products only to federal agencies, FPI's largest purchaser is the U.S. Department of Defense, which makes up 52% of it revenues. 89 The FPI use to have a mandatory source requirement for all federal agencies, but it was amended to prohibit any federal agency from purchasing FPI products or services, unless the agency determines that the products offered are the "best value". 90 So in addition to making license plates, furniture and other typical prison-made goods, thousands of federal inmates work for FPI making supplies for the U.S. military. FPI inmates who are given this assignment find themselves making anti-tank missiles, body armor, land mine sweepers, components for fighter aircrafts, and other gear for the Pentagon. 91 ¶Consequently, an inmate who works within the federal prison labor system may make a maximum of $64.00 a month (prior to any state deductions for room and board, taxes, etc., assuming an inmate works 5 days a week for 8 hours), and a maximum of $92.00 a month (subtracting 50% of the wages for the IRFP, assuming an inmate works 5 days a week for 8 hours) if he works for FPI.¶ B. State Prison Labor Systems ¶There are approximately 1,382,000 inmates in state prisons in the U.S.92 State prisoners work within varying labor systems while incarcerated. 9 3 State inmates may (1) work within the confines of a prison, where state or private entities manage the facility, sell the products produced, and receive the profits, (2) work in jobs directly benefiting prison operations by cleaning, cooking, or doing laundry, or (3) work outside of prison walls laboring for the state or private companies. 94 Over the last 30 years, at least 37 states have enacted laws permitting the use of inmate labor by private enterprise. 9 5 State inmates' wages are determined by the state in which they are incarcerated, and may be affected depending on whether the state correctional facility is certified under the Prison Industry Enhancement Certification Program. ¶1. State Prison Labor ¶ Under The Prison Industry Enhancement Certification Program ("PIE") In 1979, Congress passed the Prison Industry Enhancement Certification program ("PIE") under the Justice System Improvement Act.96 The PIE exempts state and local correction departments from the Ashurst-Sumners Act legislation, which placed restrictions on the interstate sale and transportation of prison-made goods.9 7 The specific goal of the PIE was to provide private-sector work opportunities to prisoners by certifying 50 state correctional agencies to sell prison made goods interstate and to the Federal Government (over the original $10,000 limitation). 98 Once a state agency is certified under the PIE, its corrections department may either sell prison made goods on its own, or enter into prison labor contracts with private companies to sell goods in the free market.99 ¶ In order to qualify for PIE certification, correctional agencies have to apply through the Bureau of Justice Assistance ("BJA") or the National Correctional Industries Association, pay state prisoners a prevailing wage, and meet several other statutory requirements.10 0 Paying inmate workers prevailing wages under the PIE may appear equitable on its face, but it is not. Most inmates see only 20% of their gross wages because the PIE also allows for 80% wage deductions for room and board, victim assistance, taxes, and family support.lO' While expecting convicts to defray the cost of their incarceration and victim services is reasonable, as will be seen in part x of this article, the current scheme is short sighted and unwise because, among other things, so little attention is given to reducing recidivism through prison programs and support for newly released inmates. ¶According to the Bureau of Justice Assistance, there were 37 state, and 4 county-based PIE certified correctional industry programs in the U.S. in 2011.102 These PIE programs include the management of at least 175 business partnerships with private industry. 103 In 2012, the number of PIE certifications increased to 45; these certified correctional agencies employed a total of 4,700 inmates. 104 Furthermore, the 45 certified PIE agencies generated $9,780,130 in gross salary revenues in 2012.105 A majority of those earnings went to net inmate salaries ($3,958,354), then correctional institution for room and board ($3,482,883), state and federal taxes ($989,503) victims' programs ($947,770), and the lowest amount to inmate family support ($401,620).106 Therefore, each of the 4,700 prisoners working for PIE certified programs made approximately $842.00 in 2012, which equates to $70.00 a month.¶ ¶2. State Prison Labor Without PIE Protections ¶ State correctional industries without PIE protections are prohibited from selling prison-made products interstate. 107 They also are under no federal obligation to pay working prisoners prevailing wages as required for certification under PIE.108 Depending on the facility, these state correctional agencies typically require inmates to work, and pay inmates from $0.17 to $5.35 per hour.109 There are also several state-operated correctional institutions that force prisoners to work, but pay them absolutely nothing for their labor. For example, the Georgia Department of Corrections does not pay working inmates.1 10 Once a person is sentenced to one of the Georgia's 31 state prisons, he or she will be ordered to either work jobs that directly benefit the prison, make products to be sold to government agencies, or perform city work detail jobs without getting paid a cent.11 In light of these facts, it is not surprising that on December 9, 2010, thousands of Georgia inmates staged the largest prison protest in U.S. History.ll 2 Through the use of contraband cell phones, Georgia inmates in at least seven different state prisons coordinated a nonviolent prison strike.l13 These protesting inmates had several demands, but high on their list was to be paid a living wage for work.114 "If they would start paying us, that would reduce crime behind the walls," said Mike, one of the protesting prisoners, "inmates would have the means to get hygiene [items] and food from the commissary." 15 The protest lasted approximately 5 days and unfortunately, the prisoners' demands have still not been met.116 Almost all Georgia state-prisoners are still working for free, at least three inmates have publically complained that they were brutally beaten for their involvement in the protest, and in July 2012 several Georgia prisoners went on a hunger strike to protest additional inhumane punishments stemming from the 2010 prison protest.117 ¶Finally, state prisoners labor for correctional institutions that fall under the supervision of state departments of correction, but are separate selfsustaining corporate entities. Some of the prison industries have PIE certification for all of their work programs while others certify only certain jobs under PIE. Two such institutions in the U.S. are the Georgia Correctional Industries ("GCI") and the Oregon Corrections Enterprise ("OCE").118 GCI and OCE utilize state inmate labor to produce and sell a plethora of services and products to state and local government agencies. 19 For instance, GCI employs 1,400 Georgia inmates, who manufacture garments and bedding, institutional and office furniture, cleaning chemicals, perform embroidery, screen printing, reupholstering, engraving, optical, and framing services, work in milk and meat processing plants, and on farms to produce beef and pork, and harvest fruits and vegetables, eggs, grits, and corn. 120 GCI has some work programs certified under PIE, but a majority of the employed inmates work for less than minimum wage.121 GCI boast on its website that they "maintain one of the lowest raw food costs in the nation-$1.57 per day per inmate".122 So inmates laboring in GCI food production factories and fields in the sweltering heat of the Deep South are paid roughly $31.40 a month if they are lucky (prior to state deductions and if they work 5 days a week). Approximately 1,100 of Oregon's 14,300 prisoners work for OCE and perform a variety of services for Oregon government agencies; printing, call centers, laundry service, and mailing projects, and document scanning to name a few. 123 OCE has PIE certification, but it is difficult to determine whether it applies to all of their work programs since inmates' wages still appear to be low.124 In a study conducted by University of Oregon students, three inmates at OCE reported that after working each month, they had $50.00 to send home to their families or add to phone call accounts. 125 ¶ C. Private Prison Labor Systems ¶ State governments turned to prison privatization in order to solve the problems arising from the mass incarceration of people in the U.S.126 Thus, the top two private prison corporations in the U.S., Corrections Corporation of America, Inc. ("CCA") and The GEO Group, Inc. ("GEO"), have made billions from acquiring state and federal contracts to manage prisoners. 127 CCA is the leading private prison in the U.S. for it profits from housing more than 80,000 prisoners in the U.S.128 GEO, is one of the world's largest private prison corporations with approximately 80,000 beds and 114 facilities located in the U.S., the United Kingdom, Australia, and South Africa. 129 GEO is only second to CCA in the U.S. because GEO has 56 Facilities and a bed capacity of 61,132,130 while CCA 60 facilities with a bed capacity of more than 90,000.131 ¶ It is clear that CCA and GEO deliver profits to their shareholders from housing inmates, but they also create wealth through forced prison labor. CCA maintains that inmates work in vocational jobs including carpentry, computer applications, construction and building trades, electrical, horticulture and landscaping, masonry, painting, and plumbing. 132 GEO also reports that it provides vocational training, but does not list the specific jobs that inmates perform.133 Since the PIE only applies to state correctional agencies, CCA and GEO are unable to apply directly for certification. As a result, CCA and GEO are under no obligations to pay their inmates prevailing wages. ¶It is difficult to determine how much private prisons actually pay working inmates, but there is nothing to dispute that private prisons also force able inmates to work. It is estimated that private prisons on average pay inmates 17¢ per hour for a maximum of six hours a day, with CCA paying working prisoners the most at .50¢ per hour for "highly skilled positions".134 Other sources suggest that CCA pays working inmates $1.00 a day, and at the same time charges them $5.00 a minute for telephone calls. 135 Additional reports indicate that private prisons pay an average of 93¢ to $4.73 per hour.136 ¶ Private prison companies also capitalized on the growing incarceration of undocumented workers in the U.S. by obtaining million dollar federal detention contracts to house detainees for Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"). 1 37 Like the other inmates they house, private prison companies also force immigration detainees to work. 138 CCA operates an immigration detention center in Gainesville, Georgia.139 Female detainees in this facility have complained that they are paid subminimum wages for their work and about inadequate medical and living conditions. 140

#### Strikes harm workers and the aff can’t solve non-prison workers.

1AC Kelly 18 [Kim Kelly is a freelance journalist and organizer based in Philadelphia. Her work on labor, class, politics, and culture has appeared in the New Republic, the Washington Post, the Baffler, and Esquire, among other publications, and she is the author of FIGHT LIKE HELL, a forthcoming book of intersectional labor history. “How the Ongoing Prison Strike is Connected to the Labor Movement”. 9-4-2018. Teen Vogue. [https://www.teenvogue.com/story/labor-day-2018-how-the-ongoing-prison-strike-is-connected-to-the-labor-movement. Accessed 11-1-2021](https://www.teenvogue.com/story/labor-day-2018-how-the-ongoing-prison-strike-is-connected-to-the-labor-movement.%20Accessed%2011-1-2021); MJen // gord0]

It’s a tough time to be a worker in America. The Trump administration has [slashed important workplace safety regulations to ribbons](https://www.epi.org/publication/deregulation-year-in-review/); the economic gap between the poor and working classes and the 1% [continues to widen](https://www.theguardian.com/inequality/2018/jan/22/inequality-gap-widens-as-42-people-hold-same-wealth-as-37bn-poorest) at an alarming rate; poverty remains [rampant](https://www.economist.com/democracy-in-america/2018/03/01/poverty-in-america); and overall, union membership, which affords protection to workers throughout the country, hovered [around only 11%](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-01-19/union-membership-rate-in-u-s-held-at-record-low-of-10-7-in-17) for 2017. Headlines alleging worker exploitation at Silicon Valley giants like Amazon, Tesla, and Uber bombard our screens; even “progressive” media organizations swept up in [the digital media organizing wave](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/26/business/media/unions-digital-media.html) are struggling, as [BuzzFeed](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/26/business/media/unions-digital-media.html) founder Jonah Peretti has repeatedly spoken out against unionizing, while [Slate](https://splinternews.com/slate-staffers-accuse-bosses-of-new-union-busting-effor-1827238235) and [Thrillist](https://theconcourse.deadspin.com/the-dismal-thrillist-anti-union-campaign-1793157413) employees who have unionized have accused the companies of using anti-union tactics and stalling the process. And the most vulnerable worker populations—[sex workers](https://qz.com/1310338/the-us-sex-worker-crackdown-hurts-the-most-vulnerable-women/), [immigrants](https://www.theguardian.com/news/2018/mar/13/how-the-most-vulnerable-workers-are-targeted-for-sexual-abuse), and [undocumented people](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/low-wage-immigrant-workers-are-especially-vulnerable-to-sexual-abuse-how-can-they-say-metoo)—face increased repression from the government. There is hope, though. For centuries, a worker’s most potent weapon against exploitation from capitalism and oppression from the powers that be has been direct action: the strike. And right now, America’s prisoners are [on strike](http://prisonstrike.com/). Incarcerated workers across the nation [are standing up to protest](https://www.teenvogue.com/story/how-the-national-prison-strike-is-working-to-help-incarcerated-people-in-the-united-states) their inhumane living conditions and buck the horrific yoke of prison slavery with organized labor’s strongest weapons—solidarity and collective action. The prison strike was organized by workers both inside and outside detention facilities, spearheaded by Jailhouse Lawyers Speak (JLS), and supported by the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC) and the Free Alabama Movement (FAM), and sparked by [deadly uprisings at Lee Correctional Institution in South Carolina earlier this year [that cost seven prisoners’ lives](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/04/30/prison-riots-and-killings-rising-states-slash-budgets-guards/545299002/). The strike began on August 21 and ends on September 9, dates that reflect the legacy of rebellion in American prisons: [on August 21, 1971](http://www.latimes.com/local/crime/la-me-san-quentin-six-retro-20150813-htmlstory.html), George Jackson was killed by prison guards in San Quentin, and his death was met by protests from other prisoners across the country, [culminating in the famed September 9 uprising](http://amsterdamnews.com/news/2011/sep/12/40-year-anniversary-of-the-attica-rebellion/) at the Attica Correctional Facility in upstate New York. By choosing these dates, participants in the prison strike of 2018 are drawing a direct line between their current struggle and the struggles of those who have come before, emphasizing the stark fact that [very little has changed](https://www.citylab.com/equity/2017/06/america-treatment-of-prisoners-criminal-justice/529143/) in terms of conditions or opportunities for those who are locked up and held by the state since the birth of the modern prison system. The striking prisoners of today have released a a list of ten demands. which calls for improvements to the current living conditions in prisons, increased rehabilitation programs, educational opportunities, and specific policy goals. This essentially articulates the idea of [non-reformist reforms](https://www.jacobinmag.com/2017/08/prison-abolition-reform-mass-incarceration), a central plank of prison abolition. By illuminating the barbarity of the current prison system and calling for its abolishment while advocating for an improvement in current conditions, they are—to [paraphrase](https://ordinary-times.com/shawngude/2013/02/non-reformist-reforms-defined/) French socialist André Gorz—asking not for what can be achieved within a current system, but for what should be possible. As of August 21, across 17 states (and one Canadian province), these incarcerated workers are demanding real, tangible prison reform, and the abolition of one of America’s great enduring shames—the loophole enacted by [the 13th amendment](https://www.teenvogue.com/story/13th-documentary-ava-duvernay-netflix) that decrees slavery can be used to penalize those convicted of a crime. This is where the term “prison slavery” originates, as director Ava DuVernay laid out in her groundbreaking [2016 documentary 13th](http://www.avaduvernay.com/13th/), which argues that slavery never ended — it was just repurposed by the prison industrial complex and blossomed as mass incarceration. Her documentary argued that the new American plantations don’t grow cotton, they work prison jobs churning out license plates and other cheap goods, for which prisoners are paid mere pennies on the hour—if at all. Meanwhile, prison labor generates an estimated [$1 billion per year](https://www.economist.com/united-states/2017/03/16/prison-labour-is-a-billion-dollar-industry-with-uncertain-returns-for-inmates), proving to be quite a profitable business for the private companies and corporations who benefit from prisoners’ work. Prison labor is used to manufacture a vast array of consumer goods, from [Christmas toys and blue jeans to military equipment, lingerie, and car parts](https://www.thrillist.com/gear/products-made-by-prisoners-clothing-furniture-electronics). Incarcerated people also frequently serve as a captive labor force [for prisons themselves as kitchen and maintenance workers](https://www.npr.org/2018/08/21/640630606/u-s-inmates-plan-nationwide-prison-strike-to-protest-labor-conditions), and for a variety of other services, from [shoveling snow after a Boston blizzard](https://www.boston.com/news/local-news/2015/02/17/low-on-resources-boston-turns-to-prison-labor-to-shovel-snow) to [harvesting oranges in Florida](https://nypost.com/2015/06/23/the-seven-weirdest-jobs-that-prisoners-do/). (California recently made headlines when it was revealed that it [was using prison labor](https://www.vox.com/2018/8/9/17670494/california-prison-labor-mendocino-carr-ferguson-wildfires) to fight its deadly wildfires, which it has done since the 1940s; the prisoners (which included some juvenile offenders) were reportedly paid $1 per hour plus $2 per day to risk their lives, and are [barred from becoming firefighters](https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2018/08/20/californias-volunteer-inmate-firefighters-denied-jobs-after-release-column/987677002/) after their release.) Prisoners are paid very little for their work; the average wage in state prisons ranges, on average, from 14 cents to 63 cents per hour for “regular” prison jobs, and between 33 cents and $1.41 per hour for those who work for state-owned businesses, and while they are working full-time jobs, prisoners do not always have the benefit of basic labor protections, such as minimum wage, sick leave, or overtime pay. Given that the United States has the [highest incarceration rate in the world](http://www.prisonstudies.org/highest-to-lowest/prison_population_rate?field_region_taxonomy_tid=All), with [2.3 million people](https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2018.html) currently behind bars, the prison industrial complex [would collapse](https://psmag.com/social-justice/taking-freedom-modern-day-slavery) were it to pay incarcerated workers the minimum wage—which creates [further incentive](https://www.newyorker.com/business/currency/making-profits-on-the-captive-prison-market) for them to keep locking people up. Many prisoners [welcome the chance to work during their incarceration](http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-bozelko-prison-labor-20171020-story.html), because it gets them out of their cells, allows them to make purchases from commissary, and gives them the opportunity to send money home to their loved ones, but not everyone is given a choice: according to Newsweek, some prisoners in eight states—Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas—are [not paid at all](https://www.newsweek.com/prison-slavery-who-benefits-cheap-inmate-labor-1093729) for their labor in government-run facilities. Unlike most other workers, prisoners cannot simply walk off the job; they are forced to get more [creative](https://www.motherjones.com/crime-justice/2018/08/prison-strike-inmate-labor-organizers/). Participants in the strike have several options available to them, according to Mother Jones, including commissary boycotts, work stoppages, sit-ins, and hunger strikes, and reports of participation are continually coming in from different facilities. In addition, these workers also have much more to fear in terms of retaliation, and several organizers say that they have already [endured punitive measures](https://www.motherjones.com/crime-justice/2018/08/prison-strike-inmate-labor-organizers/). Participating in a prison strike is a matter of life or death, but for prisoners seeking justice, if not freedom, there is really no other option. There has been a huge amount of media coverage over this prison strike, a massive contrast to the last major national prison strike in 2016, which was said by some to be the [largest prison strike in American history](https://theintercept.com/2016/09/16/the-largest-prison-strike-in-u-s-history-enters-its-second-week/) and involved what one organizer estimated as roughly 20,000 incarcerated workers and across at least 20 facilities yet received little to no mainstream media coverage. The tide seems to be turning, buoyed by a number of factors, from the continuing outcry over police brutality and more visible conversations over the horrors of the prison industrial complex to the overtly racist practices of the Trump regime. More people on the outside are waking up to the terrible plight of our siblings behind the walls, but awareness isn’t enough: they need [support, solidarity, and action](https://itsgoingdown.org/prisonstrike/). It bears remembering that, above all, this strike is a human rights campaign. Ending prison slavery and supporting incarcerated workers is absolutely a labor issue, and every union and labor activist in the nation should be standing up to support their efforts. The companies who profit off of this modern day slavery have blood on their hands, just like history’s craven factory owners and coal bosses who oversaw the [deaths and degradation of previous generations](https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/the-american-worker-exploited-from-the-beginning/2017/11/20/7ae8fe6a-c890-11e7-b0cf-7689a9f2d84e_story.html). We need to equate monetarily supporting companies that use prison labor with crossing the picket line, and to scabbing for enslavement. The fact that there are human beings housed in cages who are forced to work for slave wages is completely unacceptable by any metric, and fixing (if not completely abolishing) this wretched system should be a priority for those who consider themselves part of the labor movement, or on the right side of history. An injury to one is an injury to all, and our fellow workers on the inside are bleeding out.