Dear Abolitionists,

2014’s second issue of The Abolitionist tackles the theme of “Capitalism, Anti-Capitalism, and the Prison Industrial Complex.” To many of our readers, this topic will come as no surprise. Two interconnected questions might help to frame the pieces offered in this issue: First, what might prison industrial complex abolition look like through an anti-capitalist lens? Second, what does capitalism look like when our struggles to abolish the PIC provide the lens through which we view it?

The term prison industrial complex helps shift the way that we think and talk about prisons and policing, to shift the way that we explain why imprisonment and policing exist in the first place. Whereas the all-too-prevalent explanation says we need prisons as a solution to crime and other social problems, the term prison industrial complex suggests that in order both to explain and to fight the racist system of imprisonment, we needed to ask, who benefits from policing and prisons? Who makes money? Who gets elected and re-elected? Who gets a career? Why is it that the US has spent millions of dollars on new prison beds even as the rate of crime has fallen? How is it that, as Ruthie Gilmore puts it “punishment has become as industrialized as making cars, clothing, or missiles, or growing cotton”? Why prisons, rather than some other industry? Why, as Craig Gilmore’s interview with James Kilgore in this issue suggests, do people who do not benefit directly from the PIC believe it to be necessary? What makes people believe that prisons solve problems?

Asking these questions reminds us that in order to fight the PIC, we need also to fight the social, political, and economic systems that make the PIC possible in the first place. What we gain from analyzing that system is the ability to imagine how the abolitionist struggle looks. By the year 2030 nearly a third of the entire prison population in the United States will be elderly, upwards of 400,000 prisoners.

Placing the PIC at the center of the way that we think and talk about the prison industrial complex helps shift the way that many of our readers think about the prison industrial complex. The prison industrial complex is not just the notion capitalism has given rise to freedom and democracy around the world. In response, the abolitionist asks, freedom for whom? Which world?

For the world in which the abolitionist sets to work and seeks to transform, the world in which the abolitionist finds community is also the world in which capitalism has sought to explain why imprisonment and policing exist in the first place. Where does the PIC help us think about the abolitionist struggle? What might prison industrial complex abolition look like through an anti-capitalist lens? Second, what does capitalism look like when our struggles to abolish the PIC provide the lens through which we view it?

The world, then, in which the abolitionist’s struggle begins is a world where capitalism saw its crimes as problems. The world, then, in which the abolitionist’s struggle begins is a world where imprisonment and policing exist in the first place. Whereas the all-too-prevalent explanation says we need prisons as a solution to crime and other social problems, the term prison industrial complex suggests that in order both to explain and to fight the racist system of imprisonment, we needed to ask, who benefits from policing and prisons? Who makes money? Who gets elected and re-elected? Who gets a career? Why is it that the US has spent millions of dollars on new prison beds even as the rate of crime has fallen? How is it that, as Ruthie Gilmore puts it “punishment has become as industrialized as making cars, clothing, or missiles, or growing cotton”? Why prisons, rather than some other industry? Why, as Craig Gilmore’s interview with James Kilgore in this issue suggests, do people who do not benefit directly from the PIC believe it to be necessary? What makes people believe that prisons solve problems?

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Critical Resistance seeks to build an international movement to end the Prison Industrial Complex by challenging the belief that caging and controlling people is what makes us safe. As such, our work is part of global struggles against inequality and powerlessness. The success of the movement requires that it reflect communities most affected by the PIC.

We cannot support any work that extends its life or scope.

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Revisiting “The Prison Industrial Complex and The Global Economy”

An Interview with Eve Goldberg and Linda Evans

To 1997 Eve Goldberg and Linda Evans published “The Prison Industrial Complex and The Global Economy.” The piece, which was re-published multiple times and turned into a pamphlet, drew important connections between globalization and the rise of the prison industrial complex (PIC). The piece remains essential reading for people interested in fighting the PIC today, so at the request of The Abolitionist, Critical Resistance, and the Oakland Public Library, we have updated and added things and take notes. There was a little bit we found on the internet, but very little.

Once we wrote it, the very first thing that happened with it was that Prison Activist Resource Center put it online with a website called, “Eve Goldberg: This article we wrote is on the internet.” The next thing that happened was the pamphlet came out. Bo Brox took it to the printer and put it out and it came out and one day Michael Shalluck printed it in Turning the Tide anti-racist action paper. Then it was in a couple more different magazines. And then that business Critical Resistance put it in pamphlets for the first conference. So it had little bits of life in different arenas and I’m thinking now, do those arenas even exist? There are a lot less newspapers, a lot less magazines. People are still reading. Tons. But they’re reading it on the internet.

One of the things that’s coming up right now in California where the bulk of The Abolitionist papers go, is the prison regime is proposing new regular fees and ‘obligations’ for prisoners and there is a huge impact on something like this project or something like the Bayview, because if they codify this idea of “security threat groups,” then anything that mentions a person that they validated as being part of a security threat group or has a picture of them or anything, anything that can be named. That could mean we would never get back inside California prisons. Let alone statements from the hunger strike règle getting published or let alone Third World Liberationist statements coming out from imprisoned people. And so what we’re seeing are a few political papers going inside already, that would be the end. That’s a big deal.

I remember how important it was to get anything from the outside and there were so many more underground newspapers and pamphlets and magazines. Not one of us would ever have thought we would have created a pamphlet or a magazine. We created pamphlets, we wrote the pamphlet, there wasn’t as much radical media as when I was young in the 70s where we had a huge network nationally, but it was so important to get things that we could read and share with other prisoners. I’m sure it’s really important inside still.

So what’s in your bio for the piece it describes you as a North American anti-imperialist political prisoner. I wonder what your perspective on anti-imperialist struggle in this period and what that would mean today.

I think the main place that it has a really meaningful currently is probably in the anti-war movements—the movement for peace and an end to oppression and wars and so on and so forth. We certainly don’t think of the current anti-war movements as anti-imperialist, but I think that they are. And I think that’s really important.

In Fall 2014, Eve Goldberg and Linda Evans wrote an article on the criminal justice system in New Orleans. They found that many people who are sentenced to jail for failing to pay fines, fees, or court costs can afford to pay them. The court system’s dependence on fines, fees, and costs can be unconstitutional. The Supreme Court has held that a criminal defendant has a right to an impartial jury—a defendant’s right to a jury is violated if a judge makes money from the defendant. The court system’s dependence on fees and costs can also create a conflict of interest because the court both depends upon and controls fees and court costs. Although not every financial assessment raises constitutional concerns, assessments that the court system collects “as a judge—indeed, as a form of compensation for the judge’s judicial services—is constitutionally suspect because it is a conflict of interest the court both depends upon and controls fees and costs.” In other words, the traffic court judges receive a salary from the court, but they also receive a salary from the court by setting fines. If a person does go to court, a judge may revoke a person’s probation if a court finds that the person willfully missed a payment. A court may also impose other sanctions, including placing a person in jail. Judges have the power to return licenses, extending his or her probation, or intercepting his or her tax returns.

The rise of debtors prisons in New Orleans is particularly insidious because the criminal justice system profits from sending poor people to jail. In New Orleans, people are often arrested for failing to pay fines, fees, or court costs. In mid-2007, in order to pay for the salaries of non-judicial employees, “we need crime to fund criminal justice in New Orleans. That’s insane. But what we need criminals for is that we have a big problem with the amount of unpaid fines we have. If a person does go to court, a judge may revoke a person’s probation if a court finds that the person willfully missed a payment. A court may also impose other sanctions, including placing a person in jail. Judges have the power to return licenses, extending his or her probation, or intercepting his or her tax returns.

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New Orleans is the most incarcerated city in the most incarcerated nation in the world. That is quite a title. This means a high proportion of New Orleans families are navigating the punishments impacting not only individuals arrested and convicted of crimes, but entire communities.

Punishments beyond a prison sentence or probation are commonly called "collateral consequences." These can include loss of housing, employment, and voting—unfortunates but indirect consequences of punishment. Yet this is a misnomer. These consequences are quite direct. Despite the lasting and destructive nature of these punishments, they are not even mentioned during the plea bargaining or sentencing process.

Today there is a great deal of energy put towards the end of collateral consequences, including a focus on "reentry." Some of those leading this work—or at least those with budgets, grants, and support—it includes courts and prisons. In other words, the new "reentry" industry is intertwined with the same people imposing and executing the sentences. Obviously, the most effective way to reduce collateral consequences, the point of reentry, is to get them off the table, not to send them to prison, and even to change the laws that have criminalized so much common behavior.

While many of us work to actively alter the laws so that fewer people face the myriad punishments of the convicted, others are working towards developing a cultural shift that enables a healthier relationship than prisons to our social ailments. Many others are also working towards reducing these collateral consequences. People all need to get in where they fit in.

The Myth of Federal Housing Discrimination

When I was incarcerated, I constantly faced the commentary about how people can't move back to the Projects, or to Section 8, after prison. Nobody knew the actual rule, it was just "word on the street," and even the teachers in the prison told me to live there on parole. Effectively, families couldn't be reunited and were people des- perate for transitional housing that didn't exist. 'Not In My Backyard' applies to all communities. We need not only a review of the current policies, but also a review of the policies themselves. We need a review of the laws that have criminalized so much common behavior.

Nationwide, people have been organizing against employment discrimination under the slogan "Ban the Box." This name was coined by All of Us or None, an organization not to be confused with All of Us who Care. These have been directly self-organized people fighting for the rights of convicted people, inside and outside of prison, as well as the rights of our families. Impact- ed people have inspired others to take on this issue, including mainstream groups like the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and National Employment Law Project (NELP). In 2012, the EEOC finally issued guidance on what constitutes a form of discrimination due to a criminal history, and bars all blanket policies. This has given ammunition to the organizers and others who are both trying to change local policies and win cases in court.

The federal government has banded agencies together into a National Reentry Council, including the EEOC and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The last decade has been called the "reentry decade," but little has changed. As a matter of fact, the word "reentry" itself is the problem. The history of the word "reentry" is based on a suspect classification. Without getting too digres- sive, the program is based on the idea that discrimination in housing, employment, and voting are part of the ongoing criminal justice system. Forgive (some of) them, for they know not what they do.

Our proposed policy does not bar anyone. It divides people into two groups: (1) those whose records are too much of a burden to deal with (e.g., violent offenders); and (2) those who require individualized review by a board. The first group is obvious, reflecting the public's widespread views of many that we have passed criminal actions that doesn't raise an eyebrow of concern. The second group, those requiring review, acknowledges the safety concerns of someone who previously committed a serious act of violence. The review factors in one's current circumstances and frame of mind, including their actions (such as work and education) and time elapsed since the crime. Creating a review process is the only way to alleviate fears, both realistic and fabricated, regarding who is going to be kept behind bars.

The authorities whose job it is to prevent race-based housing discrimination may be perpetrating it.

Jesus said to go where the sinners are. In this scenario, the sinners could be the people convicted of crimes. However, the sinners are also those doing the commun- ity-wide discrimination. Forgive (some of) them, for they know not what they do. Like much of America, the punishment has gone too far. While the goal of the community has probably exceeded the harms it was advertised as preventing. Many Americans, however, don't believe the use of courts and prisons was ever about any- thing more than oppressive control. Regardless of the motives, many are now asking for little ways to avoid the big change.

Because of the agency's history of corruption and mismanagement, the federal government had appointed a "receiver" to run HANO. This head of the agency ca- rried out the mandated policy. This head of the agency carried it out to the fullest extent, and even to change the laws that have criminalized so much common behavior.

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The Prisons of Plan Colombia

BY JULIE DE DARDDEL

The punitive management of the most deprived classes is not a deviation from the economic principles of neoliberalism, but rather an essential element of the neoliberal order. What the sociologist Latifah Wacquant sets out for the United States is also true of Latin America. Since 1970, when advanced economies are also true of Latin America. After two decades of neoliberal experiments in which Latin American countries have witnessed a spectacular rise in the number of incarcerated people, the prison industrial complex has experienced the more marginalized fractions of the post-industrial working class. However, by 1990, these countries have adopted extremely punitive policies resulting in a demographic explosion in the prison population.

Colombia is one of the most significant examples of prisoners' rights violations in the Americas. The economic apertures of the 1990s, labor deregulement and privatization of public services have coincided with an increase in the number of incarcerated people as a result of criminalization, repression and violence against social movements. Colombia had never known such methods in the past, and the government decided to face down criminality, as well as criminal law and repressive practices. As Colombia enters the 1990s, these countries have adopted extremely punitive policies resulting in the prison population.

However, this view of the old prison system has been called into question by considering some culturally embedded practices that contributed considerably to the creation of the New Prison Culture. The Anthropological research methods, such as in situ observations and in-depth interviews with surveys, provide a better understanding of the social relations and moderate the deper-sonalizing effects of imprisonment. A few personal observations and in-depth interviews with inmates who call a ‘regional extradition’ have contributed considerably to the New Prison Culture. The Anthropological research methods, such as in situ observations and in-depth interviews with surveys, provide a better understanding of the social relations and moderate the deper-

The shared interest of the Colombian military and the US government in the control of the prison system. Without a doubt, the opposition to the New Prison Culture in practice was seen as a threat to the temporal and spatial boundaries of the prison system at a time when the dream of modernity and order that the INPEC said to the Colombian media rapidly turned into an Orwellian nightmare. In little time, Vallejo earned its reputation as a ‘national punishment prison’, performing the role of an exemplary space of fear used as a bogeyman to neutralize and subdue prisoners in the whole country.

Before its inauguration, the BOP took up quarters inside the new high-security prison of Vallejo. For several months, its inauguration was rehearsed like a theater play, where each actor learned his role: the administrative staff and the warders learned the procedures and the New Prison Techniques borrowed from the US correctional protocols. Special forces created by the US (Special Response Group (SOG) and the Special Escort Corps (CORES)) – where trained according to US security methods – were sent to provide the BOP with the ‘right’ immigration (immobilization of inmates on their stomachs with arms and legs hand cuffed to the metal beam of the re-straint position), four point restraint in which the inmate is immobilized with hands and feet to the bed, and the use of chemical gases to subdue recalcitrant in-mates or individuals who resisted. The New Prison Prison Culture is no different.

In conclusion, no one can claim that the US has left the world of the New Prison Culture behind. In fact, the US is one of the leading recipients of US aid in the world. Yet, these countries have adopted extremely punitive policies resulting in the prison population.

How to Submit

1. Be clear in your writing and artwork.

2. Writing Suggestions

- Even if writing is difficult for you, your ideas are worth the struggle. Try reading your piece out loud to yourself or sharing it with someone else. Doing this might help you clarify the ideas in your submission.

3. Send us your writing and artwork!

We accept articles, letters, creative writing, poetry, interviews, and art (in English and Spanish).

How to Submit

1. Choose your name and address printed with your article, please include it as you would like it if printed. If you do not wish to have your name or address included, please include a note with your article.

2. If possible, send a copy of your submission, not the original.

Writing Suggestions

1. Even if writing is difficult for you, your ideas are worth the struggle. Try reading your piece out loud to yourself or sharing it with someone else. Doing this might help you clarify the ideas in your submission.

Send your submission to:

Critical Resistance (c/o Critical Resistance)
504 Franklin St., Suite 504
Oakland, CA 94612

1. The Prisons of Plan Colombia

2. By Julie de Dardel

3. The Abolitionist

B 5

FALL 2014
By Craig Gilmore

If you've been reading much about prisons over the past years, you've probably come across what's been called the "mass incarceration" phenomenon. It is a process of incarceration on a massive scale and a more recent phenomenon, which has come under the label of "prisonization." It has been characterized by the rapid expansion of the prison system in the United States, resulting in mass incarceration rates that are among the highest in the world. The result is that millions of people are being incarcerated and the cost of incarceration has become a significant financial burden for the state.

In the past, the idea of mass incarceration was not widely discussed. It was assumed that people who went to prison were there because they had committed serious offenses, and that the state had a legitimate reason to keep them there. However, in recent years, there has been growing concern about the use of incarceration as a punishment and as a tool of social control.

The Canadian system of mass incarceration is not significantly different from that in the United States. The main difference is that the rate of incarceration in Canada is much lower, and the amount of time spent in prison is generally shorter. However, the focus on mass incarceration is the same in both countries, and the same issues are discussed. This article will focus on the Canadian context, and the challenges that are faced by those who are incarcerated, and the challenges that society faces in addressing the issue.

One of the things that has happened recently, which shows somewhat the attitude of the prison system, is the way in which people are being held in prison. When someone is charged with a crime, they are held in jail until they can be tried, or until they are sentenced to prison. This is a problem, because it means that people are being held in jail for long periods of time, and often they do not have access to legal representation, or to the other rights that are available to people who are not incarcerated.

One of the issues that has been raised recently is that people who are incarcerated are not getting basic human rights. They are not getting access to the legal system, they are not getting access to education, they are not getting access to healthcare, and they are not getting access to basic services. This is a problem, because it means that people who are incarcerated are not living in conditions that are meant to help them rehabilitate and reintegrate into society.

The other issue is the fact that people who are incarcerated are not being treated as human beings. They are being treated as objects, as things to be managed, and as things to be controlled. This is a problem, because it means that people who are incarcerated are not being treated with respect, and that they are not being given the opportunity to develop the skills that they need to be successful after they are released.

In conclusion, the issue of mass incarceration is a complex one, and it is one that requires a multifaceted approach. It is important to recognize that people who are incarcerated are not simply criminals, but that they are human beings who have the right to be treated with respect, and who have the right to be given the opportunity to live in conditions that are meant to help them rehabilitate and reintegrate into society.

Continued on next page
CG: I see that, because it's not a simple target right? Even if it's the wrong target.
JK: So you didn't ask, but I completely revealed my criminal background when I was hired because of nature of my offense is kind of a high profile offense. I figured that people might find out about it and it might create a problem for me if I looked as if I had tried to hide that or deceive my employer in some way. So I totally revealed all that money would be recirculated and used as a source of funding incarceration.

that money would be recirculated and used as a source of funding incarceration. The whole notion of cost recovery has gone completely amok in the criminal justice system so that we now have people paying for public defenders, the daily fee for being in jail. It’s quite out of control.

CG: So I can imagine that if the Department of Corrections or the county sheriff were told, "You've got to provide certain images," they would say, "Well. I'm going to charge for room and board then.

So you'd get paid to work in the kitchen, but you're paying for the dinner. Restaurant owners get paid for the cost of the food, and that's why they're blaming the corporations and the slave drivers so is attractive.

CG: Yeah, because it gives us a simple target right? Even if it's the wrong target.
JK: Even if it's the wrong one. That's the problem.

CG: Did the university know about your record before you were hired?
JK: They didn't ask, but I completely revealed my criminal background when I was employed because of nature of my offense is kind of a high profile offense. I figured that people might find out about it and it might create a problem for me if I looked as if I had tried to hide that or deceive my employer in some way. So I totally revealed all that.

CG: So the adjunct faculty is sort of - for people who are not familiar with how US higher education works - adjunct faculty are the precocious teachers of American colleges and universities.

CG: Absolutely. It's hard for some people to believe that the practice of employing people who have and how little they actually get paid. My contract is a one-year term and there's two terms in a year, that's four courses for the year at $4,000, you're making $15,000 a year with no benefits and very little job security. Quite often your contracts are renewed on a term-by-term basis or annually.

CG: It also seems like it would, even if you were in a situation where you had the time and the integrity of the university.

CG: The local paper ran these exposures of your political, criminal past. The first response from the university was actually an administrator made a positive response, didn't she?

CG: That's correct. The public relations person for the university that I said I was doing "a great job" and that I was "highly respected by students." But then, something worse, I don't think.

CG: So what sort of response has there been, both on the campus and in Champagne-Urbana, more generally?
JK: Well on the campus, a group got out a petition and they got 310 faculty members to sign on to the petition asking the administration to give me my job back. Largely because there were arguments that it was a violation of the academic freedom, or academic integrity of the universe.

That's what happened and the road was a realization that the university was perhaps on shaky ground arguing around the issue of academic freedom. So they then fell back on my criminal background. I mean that fact is that when I was employed and even to this day, they have no policy on how they deal with people's criminal background. Basically the university had no way of looking at people's criminal background.

The other thing that the university seems to be moving toward is doing criminal background checks on every single employee at the university. The plan is that every person the university hires is going to get a criminal background checks as of 2015.

Another of the issues that emerges from this is the need for a more transparent process in terms of how employment agreements are on a contract basis, because as it stands, if you simply don't ask for the candidate to be looking for public defenders, the opportunity to at least explain what their situation is and why they were employed despite their criminal background.

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The Modern Prison Isn’t So Modern
How Slavery and Reconstruction Built Louisiana
BY BREONNE DeDECKER

I

Louisiana imprisons more people per capita than any other state in the nation. This phenomenon is not exclusive to Louisiana, and is prevalent across the country. It is a modern concept, part of the growing argument that the system we have in place is not based on the idea of rehabilitation, but on the creation of profit. The system has become deeply engrained in the national psyche, and many people support it without realizing the brutality of the system that was put in place.

The roots of the modern prison system in Louisiana can be traced back to slavery. Before the Civil War, the Southern states had a large prison population, with the goal of maximizing profit from the conditions that were created. But private, moneyed interests have had their fingers in the prison system in a very similar way, with the goal of maximizing profit from the incarceration and degradation of the prisoners. And the state of Louisiana has a storied history of ignoring the brutality of the system that was put in place.

The idea that the prison system is a modern concept, part of the growing argument that is earning money based on the number of individuals in the prison system, is not new. The state has a history of ignoring the brutality of the system that was put in place.

But private, moneyed interests have had their fingers in the prison system in a very similar way, with the goal of maximizing profit from the incarceration and degradation of the prisoners. And the state of Louisiana has a storied history of ignoring the brutality of the system that was put in place.

The Civil War was essentially about labor, and for the Southern oligarchy to control their enslaved African Americans. Slaves, after all, were considered assets, not people. Slavery was utilized as a form of financial speculation. The loss of slaves as assets would deal a crippling blow to the banks and developed financial markets. Moreover, the Southern oligarchy needed to control the labor market in order to reap the maximum profit from their farms and industries. Slavery in the South was an economic system that sustained the Southern economy.

Decades of relying on forced labor warped the southern labor market. Louisiana’s political landscape was influenced by the Southern oligarchy, with particular agrarian politics and interests. The Northern agrarian elite was attached by the state to the system of slavery, and the Southern oligarchy was attached by the state to the system of slavery. The Northern agrarian elite was therefore indirectly involved in the system of slavery, and the Southern oligarchy was directly involved in the system of slavery.

The original owner of Angola Plantation, John James, was a man who fed his fortune out with blood. He was a particularly cruel overseer, and was rumored to be a particularly cruel overseer. Lower South. It is estimated that he broke the law that forbade the wearing of metal face cages with bits inserted in the mouth of those producing it, meaning the workers. He also was a man who taught and decimated lives from those producing it, meaning the workers.

Franklin died incredibly rich in 1847. Twenty years prior to his death, the Civil War, the wealth of the southern elite, was dissipated. The banks had been destroyed and the state’s wealth was dissipated. The state could not afford to pay for the war. The state was out of money. The state and the state expressed its rage that the state should be losing the profits made by the state. The state and the state expressed its rage that the state should be losing the profits made by the state. When following the war, it was a time of incredible need for the state, and the state expressed its rage that the state should be losing the profits made by the state.

The prison industrial complex has grown to be a profitable medical research industry, and is part of the growing argument that the system we have in place is not based on the idea of rehabilitation, but on the creation of profit. The system has become deeply engrained in the national psyche, and many people support it without realizing the brutality of the system that was put in place.

The modern prison system in Louisiana has been built on a combination of historical factors, including the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the development of the state’s economy. The roots of the modern prison system in Louisiana can be traced back to slavery. Before the Civil War, the Southern states had a large prison population, with the goal of maximizing profit from the conditions that were created. But private, moneyed interests have had their fingers in the prison system in a very similar way, with the goal of maximizing profit from the incarceration and degradation of the prisoners. And the state of Louisiana has a storied history of ignoring the brutality of the system that was put in place.

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Continued from page 7, "Evans & Goldberg"

By Ronnie Goodman

The Pew Charitable Trusts, through its Health Care Spending Project, reports a 52% jump in costs in prison healthcare spending in the 42 states it researched for 2000 compared to 1993. The study revealed that the states covered spent $6.5 billion on prisoner healthcare in 2000, which was a 52% increase over 1993. The study found that costs for medical care account for about a third of their operating budgets. Federal costs were even higher, increasing to $10 billion in 2000, compared to $6.8 billion in 1993. The costs are of course a result of the overcrowding it created and ineffectiveness of the long-termsentence, especially for the non-violent offender, has recently had to be replaced by bills calling for sentencing reform to help those most in need.

The Massachusetts legislature has proposed bills on the topic of medical release since at least 1993. They have failed to pass such a measure as there has not been enough public backing. Most recently Senate leader John Welch (D-Somerville) has introduced Senate Bill 904, which was defeated in the state of 2001 – 2008. Healthcare costs were two justifications for lowering spending for prison health care. The American Civil Liberties Union echoed Pew findings in a report indicating that the $3 billion being spent on health care for prisoners, around 246,000 were age 50 and over. This is about 15% of the total prison population. Massachusetts currently runs at about 19% of its population at 50 years of age and older. This increasing demographic of elderly prisoners faces many difficult circumstances.

By the year 2020 nearly a third of the entire prison population in the United States will be elderly prisoners. The cost of keeping these aging prisoners incarcerated is about $16 billion per year with $3 billion of that money for healthcare alone. The Pew Charitable Trusts projects by 2030 nearly a third of the entire prison population in the United States will be elderly. By the year 2030 nearly a third of the entire prison population in the United States will be elderly.

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OPPRESSION BREEDS RESISTANCE
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