

Request for Remote Public Input for House Select Committee on COVID-19 Public Comments Report - LINC

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
05/05/2020 04:36 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Racheal Shaddeau	<p>I am a Nurse Practitioner in Eastern NC where we have very low levels of COVID 19. Due to an overwhelming drop in the hospital and Emergency department census in our hospital and nationwide, my company (Envision Physician Services), has cut my contracted hours by 50%. This reduction is for all advance practice providers on the inpatient service at our location and company wide there has been a 25% reduction called for to include practicing clinicians.</p> <p>This has placed me in a difficult financial position since my husband is disabled and I carry the burden of our household. I have applied for unemployment benefits for partial unemployment but that is pending and I doubt I will be assisted due to my annual salary. What is amazing is that Envision has received funding under the COVID emergency funding as well as the hospital at which I work. but this is not making it down to my level. It seems I am caught in the middle. Envision says they only got enough funding to keep them operating for 6 days. I am not sure how much Sentara Albemarle Medical Center will receive.</p> <p>What is in place to help someone like myself? I would appreciate any assistance you can give. Thank you, Racheal E. Shaddeau, FNP C</p>
05/07/2020 03:21 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Johnny Rafidi	OPEN NC IMMEDIATELY! Our freedom has been stripped and it's time to have no government control us any longer.
05/07/2020 03:40 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Jeff Horsky	Open the state up now! We should have never and do not need to shut down. To hell with some new normal, our old normal was just fine. Stop this nonsense and let's all get back to work.
05/07/2020 03:44 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Reopening Kayla Pace	It's funny, my home state Ohio has more cases than we do, yet they are opening up salon and restaurants next Friday. Why are we not opening up? what is preventing it?
05/07/2020 04:06 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Frances Cheek	ReopenNC. It's contradictory that I can go to my dentist (talk about personal space!) and can't get a haircut from my hair dresser who is a single owner and operator with a private room and only 1 customer at a time. The restrictions are inconsistent and punitive for small businesses.
05/07/2020 04:22 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Mary Kimbro	The governor should no longer have the right to shut-down a state for any reason. The Emergency Management office should not have responded to this crisis in any way, shape or form; it didn't fall under their jurisdiction. I demand an impeachment of governor Cooper immediately.
05/07/2020 04:57 PM	Economic Support Working Group	COVID RESPONSE Olivia Stritzinger	<p>We are being forced into an economic depression- at the hands of our own elected government. Suffocating the constituents who elected you to the point of closing their small businesses.</p> <p>You are not helping us at all- you are killing us. The outrageous continuation of restrictions on the state combined with the new senate bill 704 will not go unnoticed.</p> <p>We have the right to work, and do not have to beg the government to let us do so. The "data" does not justify any of this- and people are starting to notice. Do the right thing for</p>

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			<p>the people who voted for you to represent them.</p> <p>You work for us, not the other way around! Push to reopen our state and give us our economy back!!!</p>
05/07/2020 04:59 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Kaylie Halbrook	<p>I am very concerned about the economic impact this shutdown is having. My greater concern is the fact that Governor Cooper circumvented North Carolina law to enact his stay at home order, and ignore the denial of consent from the Council of State for the restaurant closure order. I understand he claimed authority under another statute which did not require the consent of the Council of State; yet his order is exercising powers specifically named and delineated under the statute which requires him to receive consent. Somehow, this has not mattered in the order's enforcement. Why is there no avenue to complain about this? It is wrong, yet it is still in force. Are we under the rule of law, or do we serve at the governor's pleasure? I request some emendation to the laws that will prevent our state from ever falling under one-man rule again.</p> <p>Further, I ask that business and income taxes and fees be reduced or eliminated for this year. I ask for a full restructuring or repeals of our state's onerous occupational licensing and other burdensome regulations, such as the distribution caps on breweries. I ask for reduction or elimination in funding for unexplained earmarks. The budget will have to be characterized by great restraint given the coming shortfalls. Please spend the money wisely, on measures that increase economic activity, not dampen it. Please spend on the enumerated purposes of government, and not on pet projects.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
05/07/2020 05:23 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Matthew Myers	<p>My name is Matthew Myers, by now I'm sure you have heard of me. I was the one arrested in protest at my shop in Apex, NC. I want to address the fact that as I am essential to that business and am allowed to come and go from it, why no one see's fault in me being arrested for opening the door,,, like literally opening the door? Further more, I'd like to know in what realm of logical thinking does it make sense not to redirect funding or federal resources and support to the higher at risk of Covid-19? Why do 1,000,000 people have to be out of work when the solution involves antibodies from the infected? And lastly when do you plan to stand up for the constitutional rights of the constituents that elected you? This whole thing has felt like a test from God that we must pass and I refuse to believe that no one in this room has the intestinal fortitude to stand and speak out publicly on the matter! I plead to you today to make your stand before the damage is so great that it cannot be fixed.</p>
05/07/2020 05:27 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. David Andersen	<p>No one wants to see anyone die, of course: every death is someone's mom or dad, someone's grandparent or child.</p> <p>The virus is potentially deadly for anyone who gets infected; definitely serious, and we should be taking precautions. It is definitely very serious for the elderly over 70, and especially those already suffering with co-morbidities.</p> <p>But it is no Ebola: it doesn't kill 40%, 50% of a population it hits. The number looks like it will be less than 1%. Again, no one wants to see anyone die of this virus, but is our response to it going to kill more people that the virus?</p>

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			<p>What do I mean by that? In a deep recession, which we're already in, or worse, a depression, how many people die of suicide, drug overdoses, alcohol abuse? How many seniors lose their life savings, winding up destitute? How many people wind up homeless? Hopeless? What about the increase in domestic violence; in crime overall? And if the results of this extended shutdown get as bad as many analysts predict—they're saying it could be the worst we've seen since the Great Depression—how many will starve to death, on the streets?</p> <p>Additionally, this state and its programs for the poor and disadvantaged depend upon tax revenues. With so few businesses operating, with over a million North Carolinians unemployed, tax revenue is way down. How can programs to feed the hungry continue to operate, even as the demand for them are increasing exponentially due to the governor's policies?</p> <p>This isn't a question of money vs. lives: it's lives vs. lives.</p> <p>Public policy, which is the job of our governor and of our legislators and of the members of this committee, is a horrible, terrible job and I'd never want to have it. The fact is, the job isn't to make the *best* decision: there is no The Best. The job is to look at all the possible paths forward—each of them involving some level of death and suffering—and to pick the least worst path.</p> <p>The least worst is the best we can ever do.</p> <p>As a nation, we can't afford monochromatic decision making; decisions based only on the most immediate, scariest threat. Yet in state after state, county and city after county and city, that is what we're seeing, exclusively: practically none of the elected officials—our employees—are contemplating, let alone explaining, the entirety of causes and effects that must be weighed.</p> <p>The best that can be done? Choosing the least worst.</p> <p>We need to see past the current threat, the most present fear, to see the longer term potential affects of these usurpations of basic human rights, of personal liberty and the freedom to work for a living.</p> <p>We now have the data, from Sweden, from widespread population testing of narrow groups (Santa Clara County; prison populations; a town in Massachusetts, etc.) that prove the initial models were far from what we're seeing in actual impact. We see that even in the hottest of hot spots, New York City, the hospital ship has left; the field hospitals have been dismantled; Jacob Javits was barely used. Many hospitals even within New York City are now operating below capacity. We are not in danger of widespread overwhelming of our hospitals. In fact, here in North Carolina, in almost every state in the country, hospitals are down to 70%, 60% even 50% of capacity, and health systems are being forced to lay off critical care clinicians.</p>

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			<p>There is no basis in medical, scientific fact for continuing these draconian limits on our individual rights. There was no legal basis for them to have been put in place; and there is clear economic value in dropping them, lest we wind up in a downturn from which we cannot escape.</p> <p>People need to eat. People need to work and feed their families. Businesses need the chance to try to claw back from the brink, now; before they join the hundreds that have already failed.</p> <p>Open this state back up.</p>
05/07/2020 07:16 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Pass S.B. 712 Jim Vanhoy	Please pass Senate Bill 712 because it is very important to the citizens of North Carolina.
05/07/2020 07:26 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs Anna Deitrich	Let's preserve our economic future and the futures of our children by reopening the state now. The COVID-19 numbers in our great state do not support the drastic, lengthy phases the governor has enacted for the people of North Carolina. Open NC now!
05/07/2020 07:39 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Bobbi Krause	Yes to the right to work bill!
05/07/2020 07:52 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Russell Scott	The government response to COVID-19 is a multifaceted criminal racket. North Carolina absolutely must be returned to constitutional law immediately. It cannot be stated strongly enough that anything less than a full return to constitutional law is illegal and immoral. Restrictions to freedom will not be tolerated! Reopen NC, Reopen the US!
05/07/2020 08:30 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs Shirien Patel	<p>Dear All</p> <p>Although I am sure my comments will fall on deaf ears and in an attempt to make this short and sweet: We the people demand that congress ensure life liberty freedom and the pursuit of happiness to all of its citizens. Government doesn't get to choose who lives, who dies, who works, who doesn't. Are we still in MERICA or what!</p> <p>Respectfully</p> <p>Shanaaz Eisenberg</p>
05/07/2020 08:36 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Rob Winger Jr	What makes one man a self appointed dictator? What has our Governor really done for his state? His plan is drawn out and vague at best. This is NOT about him controlling us anymore, it's about Mr. Cooper learning just who he works for. Open the state. Stop punishing Churches.
05/07/2020 08:41 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Stephen Black	<p>The lockdown has already caused far more damage than the virus ever could have. We will be watching the aftermath grow more ugly and deadly for months, even if we open fully right now. Who is going to submit the accounting? Who is going to accept the responsibility? Who is going to pay the cost? Well, at least we know that We the People will shoulder that last burden.</p> <p>I want to see an honest, detailed summary of the anticipated job losses, business closures, and health impacts, along with an estimate of time to full recovery.</p> <p>We have no one to blame but ourselves and our elected representatives!</p>
05/07/2020 09:01 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Kaylie Halbrook	In addition to my previous comments, I would like to express my wholehearted support for SB 712. Its provisions strike the right note of leniency for people who need to work for

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			provision of their families and for the dignity of the work itself.
05/07/2020 09:31 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Freedom to work act Keith Majeroni	Please vote to pass the NC freedom to work act. Our state economic survival depends on it. Thank you.
05/07/2020 09:51 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Howard James	Never in human history has a flu been blown into an economic disaster for political purposes. You need to stand up for the American people and what you know is right.
05/07/2020 10:47 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Gerald Tripp, Jr.	The people of this state do not need a nanny government to step in and take control when these types of emergencies take place. The economic damage done to our communities, states, and country will take decades to fully recover and the next time there is an emergency like this, there will be nothing left for the government to do, they have no more money. We can not shut down again, there will be no money to do it. The people who agreed with the shutdown now will then question why we ever did it in the first place. You don't lock down the healthy in a pandemic. You lock down the sick. Once the projected medical numbers from this emergency started to show to be false, the tyrannical actions of this governor should have been halted. You always err on the side of liberty.
05/08/2020 12:17 AM	Economic Support Working Group	John Poshepny	It is time to open up North Carolina much more aggressively then what Governor Cooper wants.
05/08/2020 02:09 AM	Economic Support Working Group		Time to Open UP! This farce has gone on long enough. Being OUTSIDE kills the virus more efficiently than anything.
05/08/2020 04:14 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms JL Dunn	Please reopen now! The stay at home, mask orders are weakening our immune systems and creating a guaranteed health crisis in the future. Please, OPEN NC NOW!
05/08/2020 06:26 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs Marsha Norris	Reopen our state ASAP! Support SB 712 And HB 1033
05/08/2020 07:27 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Deborah Fillman	Reopen the economy without phases. We can take care of ourselves. This is monstrous, people are going to die from every OTHER cause because of what this government is doing to us! The data do not support this! You are all hurting us and our children, scarring most of us for life, and for what??? The most vulnerable are in YOUR care in state regulated facilities, and they are the ones dying most often! This govt is an abject failure and you are cultivating hatred and mistrust of yourselves and of neighbors. Stop it!!!! Please!!
05/08/2020 08:40 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Pamela Overby	(You should explain what 'category' means and why it's even on this form.) If people are afraid, they should stay at home. How could it be more simple? Let the rest of us go on about our business. Cooper is denying his constituents the freedom to run their lives their own way, to earn a living, and to participate in normal, time-honored relationships that make people thrive, not just exist. As it is, Cooper has created an environment in which people wither away. He is a small-minded, petty monster, and he is a shame and embarrassment to this beautiful state. He has: separated dying loved ones from their families, prevented fathers from attending their children's birth, kept new parents from

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			caring for their newly born infants in NICU, sicced his police officers on people legally assembling, called a time-honored right to protest a non-essential activity, stopped homeowners from buying shrubs and paints to beautify their homes during this forced lockdown, removed the ability to earn a living for hundreds of thousands, prevented everybody (except himself) from going to salons, closed our beautiful beaches and mountains. All this, and he keeps his salary. This is a travesty. OPEN THIS STATE NOW.
05/08/2020 08:44 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Reopen NC Kristina Solloway	NC needs to be reopen. There is enough scientific data to show we are ready. So many lives are being destroyed by prolonging business closures. Retirement funds for the elderly who have no other income are losing money. We have the right to work and take care of our families. Just as we have the right to stay home without it being mandated. ALL people are essential! Parents are essential to their families. ALL job are essential as people rely on them! "Feeling safe" is not reality. Pandering to fear is irresponsible, weak and controlling. Controlling the American people is tyranny, not liberty. Taking our choices away on how we live our lives is unconstitutional. Forcing Trump's successful booming economy to fail and blaming him for this mess in order to win an election in November is evil. Reopen NC!
05/08/2020 10:43 AM	Economic Support Working Group	A K	North Carolina has a tremendous opportunity to be pushed to the forefront with a strong and booming economy! If only, we will re open safely and as quickly as possible.
05/08/2020 11:11 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Charles Wright	<p>This shutdown is going to kill far more people over the next 5-10 years from suicide, depression, anxiety, heart attack, stroke, poor nutrition and poor health care - because being broke or bankrupt or unemployed is extremely unhealthy. The vast majority of working age people who contract Covid have little or no symptoms. I've never seen anyone bankrupt who had little or no symptoms. I've never seen anyone who had a dream business ruined who had little or no symptoms. I've never seen a suicide with little or no symptoms....ditto a heart attack, stroke, depression.</p> <p>In addition to the illegality of this lock down, it is idiotic and counter productive. Please don't ask me to take seriously the decisions of anyone who closes beaches and state parks while keeping liquor stores open. Don't even ask me to obey such insanity. Don't pad the stats of covid death, which we all know is going on, and ask me to take you seriously. Don't keep getting paid and pensioned and ask me to go broke. Its FKN absurd. Thank you.</p>
05/08/2020 11:43 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Betty Bass	North Carolina needs to be reopened all the way. There will be more suicides, domestic violence, child abuse, drug usage, and more alcoholics than ever as well as breaking and entering to loot businesses and homes. Also, small businesses will not survive this shutdown any longer. PLEASE REOPEN NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR CITIZENS!!!! THANK YOU!!!
05/08/2020 01:06 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Thomas Anderson	It is clear that the Governor's Executive Order and the subsequent expansions of that order has visited irreparable damage on the economy of North Carolina in general and certain targeted small businesses in specific. It is also evident that the authority on which the Governor based his initial order, GS 116A-19.30 required concurrence of the Council of State which was not given. The Governor, of course, maintains that he has the authority to do what he has done under other section and provisions of the General Statutes. His authority and the validity of his order is therefore, at best, in question. The authority granted under GS 166A -19.30 was never intended for such a long term event as this shut

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			down but was clearly for response to natural disasters such as hurricanes and/or the flooding that accompanies them. No Governor regardless of party or any other single individual should ever again have the power to shut down private businesses without the express vote of the General Assembly . GS 166A-19.30 ,and such other sections and provisions of the General Statutes of North Carolina as may be necessary, must be amended to prevent the level of power currently granted to the Governor by current Statutes from continuing in force. Additionally, the General Statutes must also be amended to prohibit the citizens of North Carolina from being fined and imprisoned for trying to keep their businesses operation and providing the livelihoods that they provide.
05/08/2020 09:23 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Karen Senecal	NC needs to OPEN. Not phased. Not restricted. People are losing businesses and losing their minds, literally. School canceled, sports canceled. No outlets just FEAR. NC does not have the kind of numbers NY did. Our hospitals are not over flowing. North Carolinian's are turning on each other because of the fear. STOP the madness. calm the fears. let people get back to living. illness will come. flu will come. Are you going to allow the state to go on lock down every flu season?? We are borderline communist at this point. that is NOT who we are!! Please. give us our lives back
05/08/2020 10:47 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Jackie Coley	Reopen NC, abate all penalties against people who violated an UNCONSTITUTIONAL executive order. As representatives you need to make damn sure this closure can never happen again. Americans have a right to live and a right to die. Safety is and has always been the responsibility of individuals. Government could have passed employee protections such that high risk employees could be given accommodations such as work from home without risking losing their job. OR some other type of job protection during the next several months. Instead of CREATIVE SOLUTIONS, our Representatives allowed Dictator Cooper to suspend all freedoms. Cooper and Cohen should both be in jail and ordered to pay restitution to the MILLIONS of North Carolinians that have lost their right to earn an honest days pay.
05/09/2020 11:10 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Christie Chadwick	Take actual notice how this virus is working. Quarantine the SICK. Allow the high-risk to stay home. And let the healthy earn their money. We carry viruses, bacteria and other pathogens with us all the time. We are asymptomatic to dozens of pathogens. Please listen to the doctors who are actually working with patients. Not the ones in their ivory towers who hasn't seen a patient in 30 years. We don't need masks. We don't need more testing. We don't need a vaccine. We need to get back to work.
05/09/2020 11:18 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Betty Bass	It is really sad that you can't even find frozen vegetables or frozen meals at the Walmart Super store here. Not to mention fresh meats. Also prices are going up and up. With people not working it will be a depression. Not to mention more suicides, domestic violence, and child abuse etc.
05/09/2020 11:38 AM	Economic Support Working Group		Please immediately end the shutdown! Immediately allow churches to resume in buildings! Do not allow tracers!
05/09/2020 12:05 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Compensatory assistance Shane Nantz	Due to the inability of Civil Service Boards/ Commissions and other Disciplinary and Trial Boards being unable to meet due to COVID-19 the ability for workers to return to work, receive back pay or receive a hearing to determine innocence has been stopped and in effect the right to a speedy trial. A provision should be incorporated into a recovery bill that allows the one time pardon of disciplinary matters that do not involve a crime or the abuse of any paid leave policy by the City or County Executive and City Councils/County

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05/09/2020 12:24 PM	Economic Support Working Group		<p>Commissions. This provision would only be for workers that are essential workers and whose pardon would restore them to full paid status in the interest of public safety and health.</p> <p>I originally found reference to this committee in a post on Facebook, and so here's my opinion on various items which may also cross over multiple work groups. Let me start by referencing the fact that even before Gov. Cooper's reopening plan went into effect on Friday 5/8 a poll that had been running on Facebook where the results were going to Speaker of the House Tim Moore showed that 41% of North Carolinians wanted a reopen with no restrictions. I work in healthcare in a medical records department and am required to wear one of those single ply cotton surgical masks and ended up getting facial scratches and scrapes because of the way that it is worn if you make it form fitting around the nose the one part will start to indirectly without actually coming out of the fabric can actually cause injuries in the first day and continue disintegrating each day after. There are multiple cases in court regarding not being allowed to work or Article I section 13 issues relating to only allowing drive thru/in services at least in phase 1, all of this caused the NC Sheriffs Association to come up with a resolution on the subject especially with the potential of federal charges related to Civil Rights violations(see Washington Times article related to William Barr orders...). Anyway there is a bill in the Senate's Ways and Operations Committee https://webservices.ncleg.gov/ViewBillDocument/2019/7084/0/DRS35378-MM-122B regarding right to work but just like in Congress being in a legislative Committee tends to mean that it is there to die. In employment even though statements like this https://thehill.com/changing-america/well-being/prevention-cures/491725-who-no-evidence-wearing-a-mask-can-protect or www.Medpagetoday.com article entitled study: masks fail to filter virus in coughing COVID-19 patients you risk your job by some form of termination by not providing legitimate MEDICAL reason for not wearing a mask so if you claim wrongful termination or HIPAA protection there is nothing that you can do about it because like most of the US NC is a "willful employment" state so that there is no recourse. The plan in NC is similar to what POTUS Trump had in place but just like what he did with his reopen plan was to provide the keys to the kingdom to the states as described in the 10th and 11th Amendments of the US Constitution even though this https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/dershowitz-trump-has-ultimate-authority-to-eliminate-stay-at-home-orders?fbclid=IwAR2-GixUiSxsMsi0KL1KoOwnSUGbL05Lz_JrQOnqn_S5D0bxjcUijvMpKnE says that POTUS Trump could have cancelled them in their entirety. A case out of Pennsylvania was sent to the SCOTUS by conservative groups and small business owners in order to prevent the Pennsylvania phase plan from taking effect due to being unconstitutional and the court said no without comment even though the request was for a review. Here in NC one could say that under: Article I Sections 6,7 and 12-14, parts of NCGS 166A, and Medicaid Law https://medicaidlawnc.com/ the entire stay at home order plan(or at least some of them) and parts of the reopen plan were unconstitutional under the NC Constitution and other laws. Like many with disability issues I also deal a great deal with my own routines and even having LTVS meetings I am having issues with some situations because I am at least three months past the required deadline for updated testing for Long Term services outside of work because no form of referral has been accepted so work not only for the non-disabled but disabled has its problems due to the current situation. Still being a couple of weeks away from even talking about a state budget(hopefully avoiding a second</p>

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			fiscal year without one), causes issues in the workplace all around and with violations of medicaid law in place a review of that along with the medical advice by "Dr." Cohen during this time since March. So a way to allow North Carolinians to work: without restrictions, and risk of jobs due to personal decisions including under https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/laws-regulations/index.html , etc. along with allowing Religious entities of all kinds including churches to meet without restrictions is needed in any form.
05/10/2020 12:00 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Abir mandal	I am done with the bullshit promoted by this so called governor of ours. He needs to be sued and thrown in prison for the damage he has caused our economy. Any democrats in the legislature should be ashamed of following this charlatan partisan hack to ruin our state. Reopen our bloody economy yesterday, no exceptions. Seriously, what is wrong with you that you ignore the data in front of us and instead rely on the nonsense spouted by the idiot Mandy Cohen, who is not even fit to administer a public toilet let alone public policy?
05/11/2020 10:12 AM	Economic Support Working Group		We have more people out of work in NC than many of the places that major outbreaks of the virus! Florida has a very large retiree population and were able to protect the vulnerable and move on. We need to do the same!