

LGBT PUBLIC HEALTH AND LEGAL ISSUES

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LGBT PUBLIC HEALTH AND LEGAL ISSUES



Edie Brous, RN, BSN, MS, MPH, JD

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OBJECTIVES

- Discuss common misperceptions about the LGBT community
- List public health implications of healthcare disparities in the LGBT population
- Analyze legal protections from LGBT discrimination

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LGBTQIA

- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Transgender
- Queer
- Intersex
- Asexual

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LGBTQIA

Lesbian:

- A woman whose primary sexual & affectional orientation is toward people of same gender

Gay:

- A sexual & affectional orientation toward people of same gender

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LGBTQIA

Bisexual:

- Person whose primary sexual & affectional orientation is toward people of same & other genders, or towards people regardless of their gender

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LGBTQIA

Transgender:

- Umbrella term, frequently abbreviated to “trans.”
- Describes wide range of identities & experiences of people whose gender identity and/or expression differs from conventional expectations based on their assigned sex at birth
- Not all trans people undergo medical transition (surgery or hormones)

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LGBTQIA

Transgender:

- Someone whose determination of their sex and/or gender is not universally considered valid
- Someone whose behavior or expression does not “match” their assigned sex according to society
- A gender outside of the man/woman binary.
- Having no gender or multiple genders

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LGBTQIA

Queer:

- Historically means abnormal or strange & used as epithet/slur against people whose gender, gender expression and/or sexuality do not conform to dominant expectations
- Some people have reclaimed “queer” & self identify as such
- Reclamation is celebration of not fitting into norms/being “abnormal”

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LGBTQIA

Queer:

- Manifestations of oppression within gay & lesbian movements such as racism, sizeism, ableism, cissexism, transmisogyny as well as assimilation politics → many people marginalized
- For some, queer is radical & anti-assimilationist stance that captures multiple aspects of identities

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LGBTQIA

Intersex:

- The experience of naturally (without any medical intervention) developing primary or secondary sex characteristics that do not fit neatly into society's definitions of male or female
- Many visibly Intersex people are mutilated in infancy & early childhood by doctors to make the individual's sex characteristics conform to society's idea of what normal bodies should look like

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LGBTQIA

Intersex:

- Intersex people are relatively common, although society's denial of their existence has allowed very little room for intersex issues to be discussed publicly
- *Hermaphrodite* is outdated & inaccurate term used to describe intersex people

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LGBTQIA

Asexual:

- A sexual orientation generally characterized by not feeling sexual attraction or desire for partnered sexuality
- Asexuality distinct from celibacy (deliberate abstention from sexual activity)
- Some asexual people do have sex
- Many diverse ways of being asexual

Source: LGBTQIA Resource Center

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OTHER TERMS

Cisgender:

- Individuals who identify with gender assigned to them at birth

TGNC:

- Transgender and/or gender-nonconforming

Shortcut: LGBTQ+

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COMMON MISPERCEPTIONS

- Supporting LGBT rights will lead to legalized bestiality & necrophilia
- LGBT persons in the armed forces will undermine troop cohesion
- People “choose” to be gay – it’s an elective “lifestyle”
- Gay people can be “converted” to heterosexuality
- Gay people are promiscuous, sexually provocative & attracted to everyone of the same sex

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COMMON MISPERCEPTIONS

- Gay men are pedophiles
- Gay people raise gay children
- Lesbians are straight women who “turned” because they had bad experiences with men
- People are gay because they were abused or had poor sex-role modeling by parents
- Lesbians hate men
- Gay people are mentally ill

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COMMON MISPERCEPTIONS

- Bisexual people are “confused”
- Transgender people are “confused”
- Gay men are effeminate/flamboyant/prissy
- Gay men are promiscuous & sexually provocative
- Gay women are butch
- The LGBT community has a sinister “agenda”
- Gay space colonies can cause the apocalypse

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PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES

- Sexual minorities living in communities with high levels of anti-gay prejudice experience a life expectancy 12 years shorter than those living in more supportive communities
- LGB young adults with greater family support show lower cortisol reactivity

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PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF
HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES

2017 JAMA Suicide Study

Compared with heterosexual teens, LGBTQ teens:

- 2.45 times more likely to *consider* suicide
- Almost 3.6 times more likely to *plan* suicide
- About 3.4 times more likely to *attempt* suicide

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PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF
HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES

2017 JAMA Suicide Study

LGBQ teens

Within previous year:

- Almost 40% seriously considered suicide
- 35% had planned suicide
- 25% had attempted suicide

Heterosexual teens

Within previous year:

- 15% seriously considered suicide
- 12% had planned suicide
- 6% had attempted suicide

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
PEDIATRICS TGNC STUDY

- Transfeminine youth may present earlier in age than transmasculine individuals
- Growing transmasculine population
- ↑ Anxiety disorders in transfeminine children & suicidal ideation in transfeminine adolescents compared with reference males
- TGNC youth experience multitude of mental health problems before initial presentation

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
PEDIATRICS TGNC STUDY

- TGNC children who receive meaningful gender identity support do not necessarily experience elevated rates of depression & anxiety
- Suicidal ideation & self-inflicted injuries with prevalence estimates orders of magnitude higher in TGNC children & adolescents than in matched cisgender reference groups

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
PEDIATRICS TGNC STUDY

- Most common diagnoses among TGNC children:
 - ◆ Attention deficit disorders
 - ◆ Anxiety disorders

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
PEDIATRICS TGNC STUDY

- Diagnoses remain common among TGNC adolescents:
 - ◆ Depressive disorders the highest prevalence
 - ◆ Suicidal ideation, self-inflicted injuries, hospitalizations for mental health diagnoses more common among TGNC children & adolescents

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TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2018
(AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION)

- LGBT people of all ages have experienced health inequalities
- Growing body of research into consequences of a lifetime of that inequity & what happens to their health as they grow older
- CDC: LGBT people face health disparities due to stigma, discrimination & violence
- Those problems spike as lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender people age

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TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2018
(AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION)

- About 2.7 million U.S. adults 50 & older identify as LGBT, including 1.1 million age 65 & older - expected to nearly double by 2060
- About 13% of LGBT older adults reported being denied health care or given poor care because of their sexual or gender identities
- Among transgender participants, number jumped to 40%

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TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2018
(AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION)

- Older LGBT adults more likely than heterosexuals to smoke, drink excessively & report depression
- Disparities exist even among subgroups within LGBT community
- Hispanic & African-American LGBT adults more likely to report having HIV
- Hispanic LGBT adults more likely to report asthma, diabetes, visual impairment

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TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2018
(AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION)

- African-American LGBT older adults more likely to be obese & have high blood pressure
- Native American LGBT older adults less likely to report cancer than whites, but more likely to report poor physical health, disability, obesity, asthma & cardiovascular disease
- Asian/Pacific Islander LGBT older adults more likely to have visual impairment, but less likely to be obese or have cancer

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INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)

CDC's National Intimate Partner & Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS):

- Higher prevalence of lifetime experiences of IPV among bisexual women than heterosexual women
- Bisexual women 2.7 times more likely to report IPV than heterosexual women
- Lifetime prevalence of IPV among lesbians higher than heterosexual women but not statistically significant

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INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)

CDC's National Intimate Partner & Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS):

- Bisexual men more likely to report ever having experienced IPV than heterosexual men
- Gay men seem less likely than heterosexual men to report

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INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)

Barriers to Assistance

- Legal definitions of domestic violence excluding same-sex couples
- Dangers of “outing” oneself when seeking help
- Lack of, or lack of knowledge about LGBT-specific or LGBT-friendly assistance resources
- Homophobia from staff of service providers
- Low levels of confidence in law enforcement officials & courts for LGBT people

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HEALTH CARE EMOTIONAL HARM

- Nonphysical harms
- Disrespect is an affront to dignity & can cause harm
- Disrespect associated with:
 - ◆ Worse patient experience
 - ◆ Lower likelihood of perceiving care as high quality
 - ◆ Lower likelihood of seeking care again in the same facility

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HEALTH CARE EMOTIONAL HARM

Bias (overt or implicit)

- Can be perceived as disrespect
- Associated with health care disparities
- May put patients at risk for preventable physical harm

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LEGAL PROTECTIONS FROM DISCRIMINATION-STATUTORY

Protected classes:

- Age
- Race
- National origin
- Religious beliefs
- Gender
- Disability
- Pregnancy
- Veteran status

[No protection for sexual minorities]

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LEGAL PROTECTIONS FROM DISCRIMINATION-STATUTORY

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

- Prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of:
 - ◆ race
 - ◆ color
 - ◆ sex
 - ◆ ethnic origin

[No protection for sexual minorities]

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LEGAL PROTECTIONS FROM DISCRIMINATION-STATUTORY

Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA)

- Prohibits discrimination against
 - ◆ employees 40 years and older

[No protection for sexual minorities]

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LEGAL PROTECTIONS FROM
DISCRIMINATION-STATUTORY

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

- No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

[No protection for sexual minorities]

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LEGAL PROTECTIONS FROM
DISCRIMINATION-STATUTORY

Fair Housing Act:

- Protects buyers & renters who belong to *protected classes* from seller or landlord discrimination

[No protection for sexual minorities]

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LEGAL PROTECTIONS FROM
DISCRIMINATION-STATUTORY

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- Prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of disabilities
- Requires that employers reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities who can otherwise perform a job

[No protection for sexual minorities]

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LEGAL PROTECTIONS FROM
DISCRIMINATION-CASE LAW

Lawrence v. Texas, 539 U.S. 558 (2003)

- Overruled *Bowers v. Hardwick*, 478 U.S. 186 (1986) – held that Georgia sodomy law which criminalized oral and anal sex did not violate Constitution - the Constitution did not confer “a fundamental right to engage in homosexual sodomy”

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LEGAL PROTECTIONS FROM
DISCRIMINATION-CASE LAW

Lawrence v. Texas, 539 U.S. 558 (2003)

- *Lawrence*: intimate consensual sexual conduct part of liberty protected by substantive due process under 14th Amendment

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LEGAL PROTECTIONS FROM
DISCRIMINATION-CASE LAW

Obergefell v. Hodges, 576 U.S. ____ (2015)

- Fundamental right to marry guaranteed to same-sex couples by:
 - ◆ Due Process Clause; and
 - ◆ Equal Protection Clause of 14th Amendment

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LEGAL PROTECTIONS FROM DISCRIMINATION-EXECUTIVE ORDER

Obama to HHS:

- Hospitals accepting Medicare & Medicaid must grant visitation & decision-making rights

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LEGAL PROTECTIONS FROM DISCRIMINATION-EXECUTIVE ORDER

Obama Executive Order 13672:

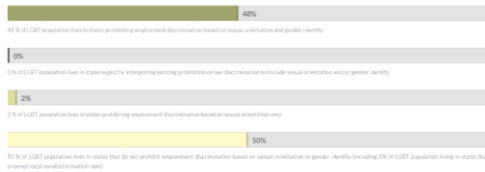
- Protects civilian *federal* workers against employment discrimination on basis of gender identify
- Prohibits *federal* contractors from hiring discrimination on basis of gender identity and sexual orientation

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LEGAL PROTECTIONS FROM DISCRIMINATION- STATE LEVEL

Percent of LGBT Population Covered by Laws



Source: Movement Advancement Project

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HATE CRIMES

October, 1998: Laramie Wyoming

Aaron McKinney & Russell Henderson abducted 21 year-old Matthew Shepard:

- hanged from wooden buck fence
- pistol whipped
- beaten
- left to die in near-freezing temperatures

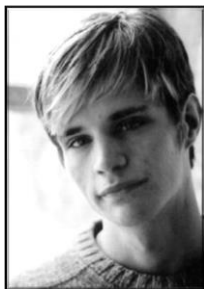


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HATE CRIMES

Died from hypothermia & severe brain damage



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HATE CRIMES

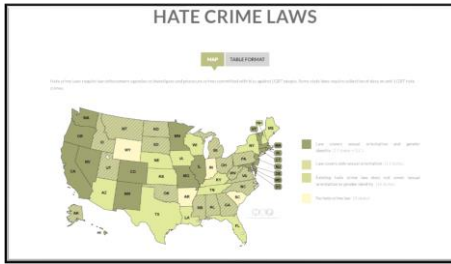
11 years later, 10/28/09

- Obama signed *Matthew Shepard & James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act*
- Added crimes against people on basis of perceived gender or gender identity to FBI hate crime data
- Gave DOJ power to investigate & prosecute LGBT hate crimes

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LEGAL PROTECTIONS FROM HATE CRIMES - STATE LEVEL



Source: Movement Advancement Project

HATE CRIMES

LGBT people more likely to be targets of hate crimes than any other minority group in the U.S 2017:

- At least 129 state anti-LGBT bills introduced
- Federal guidelines allowing transgender students to use restroom matching gender identity revoked
- Trump administration pushed to prohibit CDC from using terms “transgender” and “diversity”

HATE CRIMES

2017:

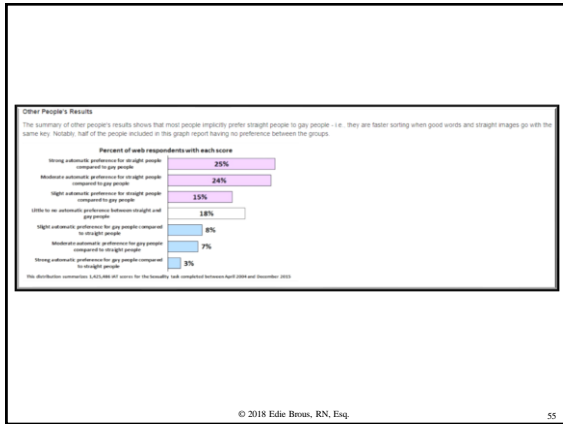
- HHS removed questions about LGBT elders from research
- LGBT questions removed from census
- Trump tried to reinstate ban on transgender in military
- Court appointments & cabinet members openly hostile to LGBT community

HATE CRIMES

2018:

- HHS established religious liberty division
 - ◆ To allow medical professionals to deny treating LGBT patients due to strongly held religious beliefs

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/19/opinion/charle-s-rhines-gay-jury-death-row.html>



UNIQUE TO SEXUAL MINORITIES

Family rejection associated with poorer health outcomes:

- Increases risk of child abuse
- Religious families: beat, pray, exorcise away the gay
- Conversion therapy (still legal in 36 states)

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Man gets death penalty for 'animalistic' killing, torture of 8-year-old boy

Amanda Lee Myers, Associated Press Published 11:38 p.m. ET June 7, 2018 | Updated 12:08 a.m. ET June 8, 2018

LOS ANGELES — A judge sentenced a California mother to life in prison Thursday and gave her boyfriend the death penalty in the "heinous, animalistic" killing of the woman's 8-year-old son, who prosecutors say was punished because the couple believed he was gay.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge George Lomeli told the couple that he hopes they wake up in the middle of the night and think of the injuries they inflicted on 8-year-old Gabriel Fernandez of Palmdale.

"I can only wish ... that it tortures you," the judge said.

Gabriel was repeatedly beaten, starved, tied up, socked in a cabinet, shot with a BB gun and once had his teeth knocked out with a ball, the judge said.

The boy also had a fractured skull, broken ribs and burns across his body.

"It goes without saying that the conduct was heinous and inhumane and nothing short of evil," Lomeli said. "It's beyond animalistic because animals know how to take care of their young."

Gabriel's mother, 34-year-old Pearl Fernandez, pleaded guilty to murder in February in the death of her son. A jury found her boyfriend, 37-year-old Isaiuro Aguirre, guilty of murder last year and found that he intentionally tortured the boy.

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UNIQUE TO SEXUAL MINORITIES

Family rejection associated with poorer health outcomes:

- Increases risk of homelessness (leading cause of youth homelessness)
- Increases risk for depression
- Increases risk for suicide
- Increases risk of high-risk sexual behaviors
- Increases risk of illegal drug use
- Increases risk of incarceration

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Commit to cultural competence in your practice

Check Yourself: Understanding Your Own Beliefs

Anti-LGBT bias is all around us. Yet we tend to overlook the subtle biases — the anti-LGBT jokes, the exclusion of LGBT-related themes in curricula, even anti-LGBT name-calling. You do not have the power to hurt and isolate people. Your work as an ally includes recognizing and challenging your own anti-LGBT bias. Answer each question honestly, and consider how these will affect your work as an ally to LGBT students.

1. If someone were to come out to you as LGBT, what would your first thought be?	5. Can you think of three historical figures who were lesbian, gay or bisexual?
2. How would you feel if your child came out to you as LGBT? How would you feel if your mother, father or sibling came out to you as LGBT?	6. Can you think of three historical figures who were transgender?
3. Would you go to a physician whom you thought was LGBT if they were of a different gender than you? What if they were the same gender as you?	7. Have you ever laughed at or made a joke at the expense of LGBT people?
4. Have you ever been to an LGBT social event, march or worship service? Why or why not?	8. Have you ever stood up for an LGBT person being harassed? Why or why not?
	9. If you do not identify as LGBT, how would you feel if people thought you were LGBT?

Recognizing your own biases is an important first step in becoming an ally. Based on your responses to these questions, do you think you have internalized some of the anti-LGBT messages pervasive in our world? How might your beliefs influence your actions as an educator of LGBT students? The more aware we are of our own biases and their impact on our behaviors, the easier it is to ensure that our personal beliefs don't undermine our efforts to support LGBT students.

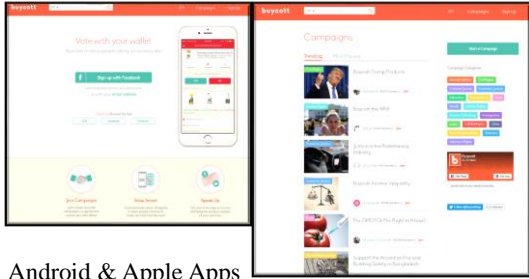
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HOW YOU CAN HELP

- VOTE
- Support non-discrimination legislation
- Make your practice inclusive/LGBT-friendly
- Use appropriate pronouns
- Speak up against bigotry
- Follow/support/donate to Human Rights Campaign <https://www.hrc.org/>
- Vote with your wallet

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BUYCOTT



Android & Apple Apps

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<https://www.pflag.org/>



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*Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient
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THANK YOU!!

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