

William_Kelly_Criminal_Justice_ Discussion.edited.edited.docx

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William Kelly Criminal Justice Discussion

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William Kelly Criminal Justice Discussion

- a. In my view, once an ex-offender has served their sentence, their criminal records ought to remain sealed and confidential. According to Kelly (2019), recidivism rates for these ex-offenders range between 50% and 60% because the current setup has made it impossible to access meaningful opportunities for legitimate work, housing, healthcare, sobriety, and re-integration into society. Once an individual has served their prison sentences, they have been punished for their wrongdoing. Making their criminal history public is akin to double punishment that limits their ability to gain meaningful employment and contribute to the growth and progress of the economy. That is why such records should remain sealed and confidential.
- b. In my opinion, the courts ought to recognize substance abuse as a medical issue. As per Kelly (2019), 25% of state inmates and 65% of those in federal custody are drug and substance offenders. These figures are alarming because drug and substance offenders comprise a significant portion of incarcerated persons. In addition, 60% to 80% of all the inmates in prisons meet the criteria for drug, alcohol, and substance abuse. Also, six hundred to seven hundred inmates are released annually, with close to four hundred in need of substance abuse treatment that they never receive. Based on these statistics, Mears (2017) suggests that the courts should ensure that such offenders get the much-needed medical aid instead of putting them in prison.
- c. When a person is addicted, they inject drugs, whether they have a safe syringe or not, and in a safe environment. Needle exchange initiatives provide addicts with a safer option that does not jeopardize their lives. Needle exchanges and supervised injection locations help avoid overdoses and blood-borne infections, providing surveillance to avoid deadly overdose

deaths, and connecting drug users with addiction treatment facilities. It also allows for proper disposal of used syringes to lessen risks to societies, checking for HIV/AIDS and other diseases, and educating about addiction initiatives. That is why these initiatives should be funded using taxpayers' money since they help make society safe.

- d. Reflecting upon William Kelly's thoughts on gun violence, citizens have the right to protect themselves where the government has failed. The constitution accords the citizens the right to protect themselves in the face of aggression. However, the current trends are worrying. There is an increased case of gun violence that has remained unchecked for some time. The sale of large-caliber weapons should be banned because allowing their purchase is akin to allowing an individual to possess the military's strength. All these weapons in the hands of individuals might compel them to use them on others, leading to unwanted consequences. The American founding fathers envisioned a cohesive and peaceful society, and if they were alive today, they would disapprove of guns with large-capacity magazines.
- e. One exciting aspect of the reading is that the current approach has failed to address the increasing crime rates. This aspect adds to our comprehending of the criminal justice plan because it guides us in finding ways to come up with better policies that can address the failures of current practices. The path forward entails significant shifts in priority areas, legislation, practices, and financing. It also entails profoundly altering how we consider criminal justice, thereby altering the customs of the American justice system. Because jail time has little effect on changing negative behavior, convicted criminals typically present with a wide range of criminogenic scenarios that necessitate proactive, evidence-based involvement to change. To my peers, as currently practiced, does the criminal justice approach meet its desired objective?

References

- Kelly, William R. (2019). *The Future of Crime and Punishment: Smart Policies for Reducing Crime and Saving Money*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. ISBN 978-1-5381-2388-1 2.
- Mears, Daniel P. (2017). *Out-of-Control Criminal Justice: The Systems Improvement Solution for More Safety, Justice, Accountability, and Efficiency*. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-1316614044.

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