

contribute to both. In consequence, the gain from the education of a child accrues not only to the child but also to other members of the society.³⁹

What Friedman is suggesting is that all of these benefits constitute a positive externality. In a typical market interaction, a good will be produced at economically efficient levels by simply allowing the producers and consumers of that good to weigh how much their weight

to underdeveloped problem solving skills and depression. As a consequence, there is a strong link between illiteracy and criminal tendencies.⁴

Juvenile offenders are likely to be illiterate. In 2003, the US Department of Education reported that 55% of all criminal offenders were illiterate. There is nothing to suggest that this number is lower among juvenile offenders. Since illiteracy is likely to be high among juvenile offenders, literacy education can have a drastic effect on their recidivism rates. A juvenile offender is 37% less likely to return to prison if he or she receives literacy education.⁵

The high public return on investing in former offenders' education is reason enough for the state to fund the program. The framework for such a project already exists. From 2006 until 2013 the Division of Youth Corrections had a Continuum of Care Initiative that educated juvenile offenders and treated them psychologically. The initiative had positive results and reduced the likelihood of recidivism.⁶ The DYC still directly interacts and monitors all of the juveniles who have committed to their care. It would be efficient to encourage academic and psychological progress by funding a DYC lead initiative.

As written, the bill does not provide for any state funding. It just allows the Division of Youth Corrections to work with a non-profit organization to run the program through private donations. It is not clear how the DYC's involvement would benefit the designated non-profit, except, potentially, by monitoring the program's progress.

⁴ "Target Crime with Literacy." Literacy and Policing in Canada.
http://policeabc.ca/files/factsheets_englishPDFs/Ch02FactSheet02.pdf.

amend the bill to encourage tracking progress through recidivism rates, which the Division of Youth Corrections currently track very closely, rather than academic records.

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