

## 24.191S15 LAUNCH QUESTION #5

### DETERMINANTS OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR?

In her essay on blame, Barbara Fried says, that one reflecting on the criminal justice system “needs to face some basic facts about this society—for starters, that in the United States parental income and education are the most powerful predictors of whether a three-year-old will end up in the boardroom or in prison; that most abusive parents were themselves victims of abuse and neglect; that the norms of one’s peer group when growing up are powerful determinants of behavior; and that traits of emotional reactivity and impulsiveness, which have a large genetic component, are among the more robust predictors of criminal behavior.”

How do you think these “facts” should be taken into account in designing a fair criminal justice system?

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