physical disabilities. As chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Disability Policy, I have been fortunate to have witnessed that strength firsthand. The last 20 years have brought many milestones for Americans with disabilities and the countless rehabilitation professionals who never shied away from a challenge.

Mr. President, please join me in saluting the 49 million Americans with disabilities and the countless rehabilitation professionals who take the time and care to reach for these dreams and to recognize what still must be done.

CRIME PREVENTION

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the growing problem of juvenile crime, a problem that Congress has not adequately addressed. As the former chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice, I am particularly alarmed by the growth of juvenile violence today, and the fact that we are doing little to slow this trend with investments in our young people.

At a time when crime is generally falling, a growing number of young people are becoming the perpetrators—and victims—of violence in our communities. Juvenile offenders are now responsible for 14 percent of all violent crime and 25 percent of all property crime. Criminologists report that 14 to 24-year-old black males, who represent just 1 percent of the population, comprise 17 percent of all homicide victims and 30 percent of all offenders. Arguments that used to be solved with fists in a school yard are now being settled with Uzi's and Tech 9 semi-automatic weapons. Some are starting to resemble prisons, with metal detectors, armed guards, and bars on the windows.

This is not the healthy environment that will nurture a new generation. Instead, this is a recipe for disaster—a formula for creating an army of young criminals whose only future is to commit more heinous and vicious crimes with each passing year. And this army perpetrates more heinous and vicious crimes on people with disabilities and rehabilitation professionals who never shied away from a challenge.

Mr. President, please join me in saluting the 49 million Americans with disabilities and the countless rehabilitation professionals who take the time and care to reach for these dreams and to recognize what still must be done.

Now, crime prevention used to be a dirty phrase in Washington, something that so-called liberals touted and conservatives criticized as a strategy for social, educational, and recreational activities for young people. Kids not only engaged in sports, but received homework assistance and help with college and GED preparation. Five community centers were established to help young people get off the wrong track and make a difference in the local neighborhoods. According to the Fort Worth Police Department, crime dropped by 28 percent within a one mile radius of each center. Gang crimes declined by 30 percent city wide in the first 6 months of 1995. This was achieved at a cost of $10 a year per student—that compares with the $40,000 a year it costs to incarcerate a juvenile offender.

The results are the same across the country. A program called Children-At-Risk [CAR] coordinates social service agencies, police, and school officials to target intensive education, counseling, and family services at 11-13 year olds. An experimental study in five cities found that the CAR test group had almost half the number of contacts with police as the non-participant control group, and had less than half the number of contacts with the juvenile court as the control group.

We have seen these kinds of case studies proving the value of crime prevention programs for years. But, Mr. President, we are now seeing comprehensive reports demonstrating the cost-effectiveness of crime prevention. Last month the Rand Corp. released a 2-year study comparing the value of investing in crime prevention versus tougher penalties and incarceration. It compared prevention programs such as graduation incentives, delinquency supervision, and parent training to a “three-strikes-and-you’re-out” law. The study found that crime prevention programs are more than 5 times more cost-effective than increased punishment.

The study concluded that a State government could prevent between 157 and 258 crimes a year by investing $1 million in crime prevention, compared with preventing 60 crimes by investing the same amount in incarceration.

Law enforcement officers—the troops on the front lines in this battle—are also calling on Congress to fund prevention programs. A recent North Carolina University study found that more than 500 police chiefs and sheriffs found that three-quarters of them believe the best way to reduce crime and violence is to increase investment in prevention programs. This is not surprising: it confirms what we found when we polled Wisconsin police chiefs and sheriffs: almost 90 percent supported the Crime Act’s prevention programs. These front line crime fighters know—better than anyone else—that crime prevention works.

Mr. President, let me be clear on this point. I am not advocating that we commit all our resources to crime prevention and no money to punishment and incarceration. Like the police chiefs and sheriffs, I support the Crime Act funding formula which allocates 80 percent for punishment, tougher penalties, and more police, as well as 20 percent for crime prevention.

Unfortunately, in the last 2 years since last legislation expired, Congress has not lived up to its promise to adequately fund crime prevention programs and is actually moving toward eliminating the few programs that it has funded. Just this week, two bills were reported out of Committee which either defund or eliminate virtually all effective prevention programs. As a member of both relevant committees, I spoke out against these cuts in committee, and will work to reverse them on the Senate Floor.

First, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted out the Commerce, State, Justice appropriations funding measure for 1997. Despite mounting evidence of the cost effectiveness of crime prevention, this bill fails to fund more than $500 million in prevention programs authorized under the Crime Act. While I commend the drafters for appropriating $20 million for Boys and Girls Clubs, this is a fraction of the prevention Congress authorized 2 years ago.

During the same week, the Senate Judiciary Committee passed the new 4-year authorization for the Juvenile
Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. The legislation eliminates all crime prevention grants and uses that money for “research and evaluation.”

Mr. President, I am a strong advocate of research and evaluation, and have introduced bills with Senator Coburn of Oklahoma and Senator Sessions of Texas to require that the money for research be allocated through a competitive bidding process. As you know, Senator Sessions and I were concerned that the proposal would have required that all the funds for research be set aside for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, without allowing for projects outside of the Department.

The bill I have introduced with Senator Sessions would have required that 25 percent of all funds be used for projects outside the Department. I am pleased to announce that the compromise proposal that has been reached would set aside 10 percent of all funds for such projects.

Mr. President, at a time when juvenile crime is on the rise, when law enforcement officials are asking for more prevention funds, and when case studies and statistical evidence are proving that we can prevent crimes, protect citizens, and save money in the long run—how can this Congress cut funding for crime prevention and eliminate these programs?

When I walk the streets with police officers in Wisconsin and I tell them what Congress is considering, they are shocked. These people know what works and they want our help. We should not turn our backs on America’s police officers and future generations, and resign ourselves to even more prisons and police. We have other alternatives that we should fund—cost effective measures which can prevent crime before it happens.

Mr. President, I look forward to working with my colleagues in a bipartisan fashion to correct the lack of juvenile crime prevention in the proposed versions of the Justice Department’s funding bill and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. This is not a partisan issue members from both parties recognize the common sense of spending at least a small portion of federal funds on prevention. As these bills come to the floor, I hope more colleagues see the tremendous progress we can make if we just have the will to work together and recognize the value of a small investment in crime prevention programs.

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Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the Bristol TN, Tree City USA Board, which was founded 6 years ago and has planted the natural beauty of the Bristol area.

Under the leadership of Dr. Donald Ellis, the tree board has embarked on a massive reforestation project in their area. Since the effort began, Tennessee residents have volunteered by one to plant trees around Bristol with the goal of planting 1 million trees by the Tennessee bicentennial this year. Mr. President, I am proud to say that these volunteers have not only reached their goal, but they will gather together on June 6 to plant tree number 1 million and one.

This is truly an example of the spirit that has made the Volunteer State great for 200 years, and it’s fitting that the 1 million and first tree will be planted this year by a volunteer.

In celebration of the bicentennial, my family and I also planted a tree—in Washington DC. Earlier this summer, I had the opportunity to see a tulip poplar—the Tennessee state tree—on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol Building. This bicentennial tree will serve as the official Tennessee state tree on the Capitol grounds and as a testament to the contagious nature of beautification efforts like Tree City USA.

Mr. President, I commend Tree City USA for its dedication to the community of Bristol. Projects like Tree City USA not only benefit the people of Bristol, but all Americans. I would also like to commend the people of Bristol, TN and thank them for their efforts. Tree City USA could not reach its goal without the hard work of these community-minded citizens.

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I would like to express my appreciation to the managers of the FY1997 Agriculture Appropriations bill, the Senior Senator from Mississippi Mr. Cochran and the Senior Senator from Arkansas Mr. Bumpers. Both Senators worked very hard to see that a well balanced bill came out of Conference. I would also like to note my appreciation that the conference made a very wise decision to fully fund the Food Safety Inspection Service. Full funding for FSIS allows for better food safety inspectors to do their job of protecting the nation’s meat and poultry. I also rise to engage Mr. Bumpers in a colloquy regarding the importance of food safety research done by the Agricultural Research Service. Understanding the enormous role that research plays in agriculture, I believe it is important to note that by increasing funding for food safety research the conference laid the groundwork for a safe food supply well into the next century.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I also rise in support of the conference decision to increase spending on food safety research. The conference allocated $32 million to food safety work in the Agriculture Research Service. This research is a very important part of the Federal Government’s effort to protect the nation’s food supply. The FY1997 Agriculture Appropriations’ Conference Report sets spending for ARS Food Safety Research at $32 million. By increasing our funding for the conference took an important step toward ensuring that our food supply meets our highest expectations.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I appreciate Senator Bumpers’ support of this important issue. I would like to talk about several particular food safety research initiatives. I strongly support, along with the Conference, three important components of pre-harvest and post-harvest food safety research proposed in the Agriculture Research Service. The Conference made the right decision to fund research of methodolo-