

SAFE AND SOUND COMMUNITIES
ACT

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise to outline my proposal for reducing juvenile crime—the “Safe and Sound Communities Act,” which I will make available as a discussion draft today. In the past few years, we have begun to make real advances in fighting juvenile crime. And in cities across the country, juvenile crime has started to fall. For example, after Boston implemented a city-wide anti-crime plan, the number of juveniles murdered declined 80 percent, and in more than two years not a single child was killed by a gun. Not one child. And in three “Weed & Seed” neighborhoods in Milwaukee, violent felonies dropped 46 percent, gun crimes fell 46 percent, and crime overall was down 21 percent. Now we need to build on what works, in order to protect our children and to make our communities “safe and sound.” This measure will be an important step in the right direction.

Indeed, we do not have to reinvent the wheel to reduce juvenile crime. The lesson from Boston, Milwaukee and other cities is clear. There is no one magic solution. But a number of steps, taken together, can and will make a difference: put dangerous criminals behind bars; keep guns out of the hands of juveniles; and give children after-school alternatives to gangs and drugs. That’s what works in Boston and Milwaukee and the rest of America. And that’s what this proposal is all about. It builds on each of these three basic strategies and expands them to more cities and more rural communities across the nation. Let me explain.

PUT DANGEROUS CRIMINALS BEHIND BARS

First, this proposal makes it easier to lock up dangerous juveniles. We can’t even begin to stop violent kids unless we have police officers on the street to catch them, and state and local prosecutors to try them. So this measure extends the highly successful COPS program, which is due to expire in two years, through the year 2003. And it provides \$100 million per year for state and local prosecutors to go after juvenile criminals.

Of course, we can’t keep criminals off the streets unless we have a place to send them. Unfortunately, although we provide states with hundreds of millions of dollars each year to build new prisons, most states use all of these funds for adult prisons only. So this measure requires states to set aside 10 percent of federal prison funding to juvenile prisons or alternative placements of delinquent children. This commitment is consistent with the Senate-passed 1994 crime bill, which set the stage for spending billions of dollars on prisons through the 1994 Crime Act.

This proposal also helps rural communities keep dangerous kids behind bars. Now, although the closest juvenile facility may be hundreds of miles away, federal law prohibits rural police

from locking up juveniles in adult jails for more than 24 hours. This means that state law enforcement officials either have to waste the time and resources to criss-cross the state even for initial court appearances, or simply let dangerous teens go free. In my view, that’s a no-win situation. This measure gives rural police the flexibility they need by letting them detain juveniles in adult jails for up to 72 hours.

And this measure will help lock up violent gun-toting kids—and the people who illegally supply them with weapons. It builds on my 1994 Youth Handgun Safety Act by turning illegal possession of a handgun by a minor into a felony. And the same goes for anyone who illegally sells handguns to kids. Kids and handguns don’t mix, and our law needs to make clear that this is a serious crime.

KEEP GUNS OUT OF THE HANDS OF CHILDREN

Second, this proposal will help keep firearms out of the hands of young people. It promotes gun safety by requiring the sale of child safety locks with every new handgun. Child safety locks can help save many of the 500 children and teenagers killed each year in firearms accidents, and the 1,500 kids each year who use guns to commit suicide. Just as importantly, they can help prevent some of the 7,000 violent juvenile crimes committed every year with guns children took from their own homes.

It also helps identify who is supplying kids with guns, so we can put them out of business and behind bars. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has been working closely with cities like Milwaukee and Boston to trace guns used by young people back to the source. Using ATF’s national database, police and prosecutors can target illegal suppliers of firearms and help stop the flow of firearms into our communities. This measure will expand the program to other cities and, with the increased penalties outlined above, it will help cut down illegal gun trafficking.

In addition, this measure closes a loophole that allows violent young offenders to buy guns legally when they turn 18. Under current law, violent adult offenders can’t buy firearms, but violent juveniles can—even the kids convicted of the schoolyard killings in Jonesboro, Arkansas—at least once they are released at age 18. This has to stop. So this measure declares that all violent felons are disqualified from buying firearms, regardless of whether they were 14 or 24, or a day short of their 18th or 28th birthday, at the time of their offense.

CRIME PREVENTION AND AFTER-SCHOOL
ALTERNATIVES TO GANGS AND DRUGS

Third, a balanced approach also requires a significant investment in crime prevention, so we can stop crime before it’s too late. Even law enforcement officials agree that we need a bigger investment in prevention. For example, more than 400 police chiefs, sheriffs and prosecutors nationwide

have endorsed a call for after-school programs for all children. And in my home state of Wisconsin, 90 percent of police chiefs and sheriffs surveyed agreed that we need to increase federal prevention spending.

This proposal promotes prevention by concentrating funding in programs that already have a record of success, like Weed & Seed, and those that rely on proven strategies, like programs that give children a safe place to go in the after-school hours between 3 and 8 p.m., when juvenile crime peaks.

For example, it expands the Weed & Seed program, a Republican program which combines aggressive enforcement and safe havens for at-risk kids. The measure also gives more schools the resources necessary to stay open after school, through expansion of the 21st Century Learning Center program. It promotes innovative locally-tailored prevention initiatives by reauthorizing and expanding the Title V At-Risk Children Challenge Grant program, which I authored. It builds on our support for the valuable work of Boys & Girls Clubs, by extending that program and expanding it to support other successful organizations like the YMCA. And it requires that at least 20 percent of the new juvenile crime funds—namely the recently-initiated \$500 million juvenile accountability block grant—be dedicated to prevention.

Of course, we shouldn’t blindly invest in prevention programs, just because they sound good. Quality, not quantity, matters. That’s why my measure cuts \$1.6 billion in prevention programs authorized by the Crime Act—so we don’t waste money on redundant programs which don’t have records of success or bipartisan support. And that’s why my measure requires five to ten percent of all prevention funds to be set aside for rigorous evaluations—so we can keep funding the programs that work, and eliminate the programs that don’t. We also reward cities that adopt comprehensive anti-juvenile crime strategies, like Boston’s and Milwaukee’s—so prevention is part of a balanced, coordinated overall plan.

This combination of tough enforcement, reducing youth access to guns, and effective prevention will help stem juvenile crime. In addition, several other necessary reforms in this proposal will make a difference. It strongly encourages states to share the records of violent juvenile offenders, and provides the funding necessary for improved record-keeping. The fact is that law enforcement officials need full disclosure in order to make informed judgments about how to treat—and whether to incarcerate—a child.

The measure also addresses the dangerous problem of school violence. It increases school security by encouraging states to use COPS funding to place police officers on school grounds. It encourages the development of initiatives to prevent school violence. And because understanding the problem is essential to any comprehensive solution,

it requires better reporting of firearms-related incidents in public schools. Unfortunately, many states do not report guns seized on school grounds.

Mr. President, the question about how to reduce juvenile crime is no longer a mystery. We have a good idea about what works. The real question is this: When will we act? As the chances for a juvenile crime bill this year look increasingly slim, I recommend this framework as a good starting point for next year. Let's build on what works so we can make our communities safer and sounder places to live. I ask unanimous consent that a summary of this proposal be printed in the RECORD.

The summary follows:

SUMMARY OF SEN. HERB KOHL'S SAFE AND SOUND COMMUNITIES ACT

TITLE I: INCREASED PLACEMENT OF JUVENILES IN APPROPRIATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

States must dedicate 10 percent of all prison funding from the 1994 Crime Act to juvenile facilities or alternative placements for delinquent juveniles. Expands ability to detain juveniles temporarily in rural adult jails by permitting detention for up to 72 hours and ending requirement of separate staff to oversee juveniles and adults.

TITLE II: REDUCING YOUTH ACCESS TO FIREARMS

Limits access of juveniles and juvenile offenders to firearms. Requires the sale of child safety locks with all handguns. Expands Department of the Treasury's youth crime gun tracing program to identify more illegal gun traffickers who are supplying guns to children. Increases jail time for individuals who transfer handguns to juveniles and for juveniles who illegally possess handguns. Prohibits the sale of firearms to violent juvenile offenders after they become eighteen years old.

TITLE III: CONSOLIDATION OF PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Repeals over \$1.6 billion in authorized prevention programs from the 1994 Crime Act. Expands Weed & Seed to \$200 million per year (from \$33.5 million in 1998), the Title V At-Risk Children Challenge Grants to \$200 million per year (from \$20 million), and the 21st Century Learning Centers to \$200 million per year (from \$40 million), and extends Boys & Girls Club funding for five more years, increasing funding to \$75 million per year (from \$20 million) and expanding the program to support other successful community organizations like the YMCA. Consolidates several gang prevention programs into one \$25 million program. Rewards cities that adopt a comprehensive anti-juvenile crime strategy based on the Boston model. Sets aside five to ten percent of prevention funding for evaluation, implementing the proposal of the DOJ-sponsored University of Maryland report.

TITLE IV: JUVENILE CRIME CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK GRANT

Promotes funding for prosecutors, improved-record keeping, juvenile prisons, and prevention through \$500 million block grant. Qualifying states must trace all firearms recovered from individuals under age 21 to identify illegal firearm traffickers, and must share criminal records of all juvenile violent offenders with other jurisdictions. \$100 million of this grant program must be dedicated to both prevention and to hiring more prosecutors.

TITLE V—SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Expands role of police officers on school campuses through COPS program. Encourages better reporting of incidents of firearms

violence in schools, including gun tracing to identify suppliers of firearms recovered on school property. Complements expansion of school violence prevention programs in Title IV block grant.

TITLE VI—EXTENSION OF COPS AND JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Extends program to hire new community police officers. Reauthorizes Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

TITLE VII—EXTENSION OF VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION TRUST FUND

Extends trust fund established by 1994 Crime Act to pay for anti-crime programs with savings from reduction of federal workforce.●

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUTH AND MAX ALPERIAN SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, next month a very special school will be celebrating its 20th anniversary. On November 15th, 1978, the Ruth and Max Alperian Schechter Day School in Providence, Rhode Island opened its doors to ten students. Today, its classrooms are filled with over 230 students, and it is one of the fastest growing Jewish institutions in Rhode Island.

The Ruth and Max Alperian Schechter Day School is a state accredited, egalitarian, conservative Jewish Day School serving children from kindergarten through grade eight. In addition to having a fine reputation for providing its students with a well-rounded education, the Alperian Schechter Day School also focuses on academic growth, ethical values, and Jewish identity. Its academic programs are both rich and challenging in general and Judaic studies.

Recognizing that a partnership with parents is essential to the education of our youngsters, the Alperian Schechter Day School continues to promote open communication with families. As a community of learners, the entire school body works together to create a community of successful, well-rounded members while encouraging continued learning and increased participation in school activities.

In fact, students from the Alperian Schechter Day School continue to build on their education, even after graduating. As academic advisors work with families and students to ensure future success, Alperian Schechter Day School graduates have gone on to attend a variety of colleges and universities including, Yale University, Harvard University, University of Rhode Island, Georgetown University, Rhode Island School of Design, and many, many other fine institutions of higher learning. In addition, students have had the opportunity to serve as interns in our nation's capital, build houses with Habitat for Humanity, and work with disabled children.

In closing, I want to congratulate the Ruth and Max Alperian Schechter Day School on its 20th Anniversary and hope for its continued success in providing academic excellence to our youngsters.●

DETROIT ATHLETIC CLUB HONORS CHUCK DAVEY

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mr. Charles Chuck Davey on the occasion of the Detroit Athletic Club's Fall Boxing Classic.

This year's honoree began his impressive boxing career while at Michigan State University. Remarkably, Chuck won his first NCAA Championship at age 17, a collegiate record, and was the NCAA's only four time boxing champion in four different weight classes. He also served as Captain and was recognized as an Outstanding BOXER from 1947-1949. Deservedly, he is viewed to be the greatest collegiate boxer of all time."

He was a member of the 1948 Olympic Team and is one of the finest professional boxers ever to come out of Detroit. From October 1949 to January of 1953, Chuck went through 39 bouts without a loss, scoring 25 kayos, taking 12 decisions and participating in two draws.

When Chuck turned professional as a welterweight, Davey defeated champions Rocky Graziano, Johnny Saxton, Carmen Bassilio and Ike Williams. At Chicago stadium in 1953, before the largest ever paid indoor attendance in boxing history, Davey fought world champion Kid Gavilan. Chuck proved to be a true sports hero.

Since retiring from boxing in 1955, he was a color broadcaster on WCAR with Bruce Martin for MSU football games. He also served as Michigan's Boxing Commissioner from 1965 to 1980 and was one of the founders and the first President of the United States Boxing Association. In addition, he served four terms as Vice President of the World Boxing Association.

For his lifetime of accomplishments in the sport of boxing, he was elected to the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame in 1980 and just this year was elected to the World Boxing Hall of Fame.

Throughout his life, Chuck has been a dedicated family man and grandfather. He is married to Patricia and they are the proud parents of nine children and enjoy nineteen grandchildren.

I want to express my congratulations to Chuck Davey for his impressive achievements both inside and outside of the ring. He is truly an inspiration.

POMC 8TH ANNUAL LOVE FOR LIFE BENEFIT

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the organization Parents of Murdered Children, Inc., Metro Detroit Chapter, on the occasion of their 8th Annual Love for Life Benefit.

The POMC was founded in Cincinnati, Ohio, 18 years ago by Charlotte and Bob Hullinger after their daughter was murdered in Germany by a former boyfriend, who traveled there and stalked her. They sought out other families who were dealing with the violent death of a loved one, to gain mutual support. This is the only organization in the United States to support