

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I had the opportunity to talk about the bracket motion with Speaker Baack, and he indicated to me that he would support such a motion. Obviously, this issue as is the next issue, or the next issue coming up fairly soon, the parental notification issue, are difficult issues for this body to discuss and are very emotional. I would request the body to bracket this bill for a month, to May 8, for a couple of reasons. One is to allow me to continue to try to talk about the issue outside of Lincoln and Omaha to concerned gun buyers and gun owners across the state. Last week, I had the opportunity to go to Wayne, Nebraska, and to Hastings, and in both places, I was absolutely flabbergasted by the lack of information that NRA members had about the bill and about the amendments to 355. I remember going to Hastings and talking primarily to a gun group or a gun club that showed up at the Hastings meeting. The first remark out of one person's mouth was, well, who is paying you off to support this Brady bill? And by the end of that meeting, however, that same individual came up to me and said I appreciate very much you coming out and talking to me about this bill. I had no idea what LB 355 really said, and the NRA had been sending out information that this was a registration bill, had been sending out information that this bill was much more, much more oppressive than what it really is, would you please send me a copy of the real bill. And there must have been 30, probably, I suspect NRA members, or at least gun enthusiasts at this meeting, all of whom were extremely upset with me and insulting, really, for the first 10 or 15 minutes, which was fine, but as the meeting went along, it became very clear that they were interested in discussing reasonable alternatives to the seven-day waiting period or the Brady bill. So that experience made it very clear to me that the truth needs to get out on LB 355 before we vote on it, even on General File. I would like to be able to move this bill to Select File, but I know, realistically, that there aren't the votes to do that today. Senator Chizek had a...was unable to be here because his small grandson was injured and is in the hospital, and there are some other supporters of the bill, who were unable to be here. And I intend to continue to go outside of Lincoln and Omaha and continue to talk to NRA members and gun dealers and gun collectors and gun enthusiasts across the state and tell them the truth about LB 355, and in that process, I would invite the