

February 19, 1993 LB 83

want to rise briefly in support of Senator Ashford's attempt to pull this bill from committee and we are in a little precarious situation when our spouses are at home and can watch us on television but I do have a note from my wife that says if I don't vote for this, she's going to be really mad. And in case the auditor is listening, she did pay for her own phone call so that should be taken care of. But on a more serious note, and Senator Robinson is exactly right. My wife and I have five children at home and our children go out and visit friends and go to neighbors houses and go out in the community and I think as a parent you ought to have the right and the expectation to believe that when they go into a stranger's home that the parents there are going to be reasonable and responsible people, and if they have firearms in their home, that those firearms are not going to be loaded and they're going to be put away. Now I know that there is a lot of argument about your right to bear arms and I think you do have a right to bear arms and I think everybody has a constitutional right to bear arms and we ought to protect that right, but children have rights too. Citizens have rights and it's a violation of that right when you put them in danger and you don't expect adults to be more responsible and you don't expect adults to take due care and caution on these types of issues. Senator Ashford points out 35 children have died and hopefully and probably and tragically needlessly, and maybe those would have been avoided or maybe one of them would have been avoided. And if that's true, I think this is a good bill and we ought to talk about it, we ought to debate it, and as a matter of fact, we ought to pass it because if it was my child, I would be more than a little upset and I think LB 83 is a piece of legislation that deserves debate and we need to send a very strong message out to the community that firearms are very serious things and they're not things that should be left on a kitchen counter in a loaded position, accessible to small children who sometimes are not responsible, sometimes don't know the guns are loaded and sometimes don't know what they're doing. So I intend to vote to support Senator Ashford in his attempt to pull this out and I'll be happy to go home and tell my wife that I did so because I guess I'll be allowed back in tonight. So thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Horgan. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Mr. Speaker, members, Senator Ashford, I truly do not know what I'm going to do with your bill because I have some problems with it at this point. But I think it's important