

that we do advance it to the floor and do have a discussion. And where I'm coming from is I think it's important that we bring this issue before the citizens of Nebraska and create a greater awareness of just what the problem is because I do think there is one. Now how we solve it, I'm not too sure in the future. But I would like to have it talked about across the state and I'd like to have neighbors talking to neighbors. I'd like to see them discuss it and how they feel about it individually, not necessarily although all inclusive of the NRA because I know we will hear from them, but I would also like to hear from citizens in my own district and throughout the State of Nebraska, how they feel about their neighbors having a gun in the house, if they do not have one and some controls that they might like to see in the future. So from that point, I would say to create a discussion across the state to build a greater awareness, I will support the advancement of this bill to the floor and hope that the rest of you would also.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Hohenstein.

SENATOR HOHENSTEIN: Mr. President, members of the body, I don't like this bill. LB 83 is not, in my opinion, in the present form a good piece of legislation. But you know if that were the criteria for not debating a bill on the floor and I will probably be in that position later on and some committee is going to look at one of my bills and say, you know, this is not a very good piece of legislation, none of them might come out. With all due respect to my good friend Senator Bernard-Stevens, we have spent an inordinate amount of time on a bill called 140 and 140 is an important issue to some people and it talks about whether we should have a Department of Labor review for whether water quality for railroad employees is an issue that we should discuss. If this bill is not as important as that bill, I don't know what is. And I'm not afraid to debate it on the floor. If this bill were on the floor today, I wouldn't vote for it. I think it needs a lot of work because I have seen these cases. How many have been in the homes? How many of you have gone to a home of a 13-year-old and seen a dead 12-year-old on the floor killed by a handgun? I have. How many have gone to the hospital and looked at a dying 13-year-old shot by a handgun and talked to his family? I have. How many have been in the basement of a home where a 15-year-old put a pistol to his head, intoxicated, and shot himself? I have. This is an important issue and I was supported by the NRA but, you know, I didn't take any of their pernicious money. Senator Chambers, I