

public information initiative. And it's our...my hope that the National Rifle Association and other gun groups will, hopefully, contribute to this initiative. Again, obviously, we are daily made more aware of the problem of guns and violence. It is the second leading...guns are the second leading killer of teenagers in our society. We've become aware of the problems in Nebraska lately with the 15-year-old...15-year-old boy who is said to be at odds with their mother over grades, and the 17-year-old Pierce, Nebraska boy, after months of feuding with his parents, returned home from a date and allegedly killed his father; 15-year-old Omaha girl, obviously, the latest...late...case of late that was reported pregnant and unhappy and allegedly shot her two sisters with a handgun. The statistics are glaring. Just recently in my district, at Memorial Park, we had another shooting of young...young people driving through the park and shooting at pedestrians in the area. The arrest rate for teenagers accused of murder is increasing, in 1987, it was one per 100,000 teenagers; in 1991, it was four per 100,000. Teenage arrests for serious assault increased from 57 in 1986, to 123 in 1991. Misdemeanor assault arrests of teenagers increased from 462 to 1,161 during the same period. Omaha School District officials confiscated 69 weapons from secondary students during 1991-92 school year, and these statistics are going up. Officials, at least in my city, are concerned about the problems that we may have this summer with weapons and teenagers, and, in fact, it's already started in my area of the city. The problem is not centered only in the eastern part of the state. There...there's information about incidents that have occurred in Scottsbluff and other...other areas of the state. It is not isolated of late, and it's, obviously, not isolated in Omaha or Lincoln. This is a start. It's a small measure, but I think it can be an effective measure. Information in the seatbelt area, and the drunk driving area, and the drug area, with children, have been effective in making...and in the AIDs area, have become effective in our society in alerting people to the problem. Hopefully, this measure will, hopefully, give somewhat of a wake up call to gun buyers to make sure that if they do have those guns where children are present, that they keep them locked up, keep them secure, out of the hands of minors, unless these minors are being adequately trained, and also to, hopefully, teach minors about the use of firearms. Again, this is a...a...a proposal that has had...starting to get wide acceptance across the country, even with gun groups such as the NRA. And I urge its adoption. As you see by the...by the amendment, it is a Class V