

because if the time comes, something gets bad enough and we need the flexibility, let's do it up front and change the rules, and not try and do it in the color of a germane amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Ashford, would you care to speak on the challenge?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yeah, thank you, Mr. President. Yeah, I think it is very tragic in our state that, because of the confusion resulting from the passage of Initiative 403, we are unable to really address this issue which is so important and so critical to the safety of our citizens in the State of Nebraska. I can't bring a bill to the floor on a simple 7-day waiting period because of the confusion and the language in Initiative 403, and I think that is a disservice to the people of this state. I think it is a tragedy. I think it is a tragedy that we can't deal with the crimes of passion problem with a 7-day waiting period. In the State of Nebraska today, you can walk in, as I said before, purchase these weapons simply by answering five or six questions on a federal firearms form in the affirmative. You answer the questions in the affirmative and you walk out of there with a semiautomatic rifle similar to the one that was used in the Stockton tragedy. In the City of Omaha, violent crimes have increased from 2,410 in 1984 to 2,774 in 1988, and the violent crimes, the drug-related crimes, as we all know, have continued to escalate. And in conclusion, I would just suggest that how many law enforcement officials, how many police officers, how many innocent citizens are we going to sacrifice until we, as a state, come to grips with this problem. I strongly support the efforts of President Bush in his efforts, and the efforts of Secretary Bennett and others in trying to come to grips with this problem on a federal level, and I support the efforts of the many law enforcement agencies in the State of Nebraska who have supported my legislation. Again, I just think it is a tragedy. It is a tragedy that we, in this Legislature, are unable to deal with this issue because of language in a constitutional provision which has absolutely no place in our Constitution. We are not after the legitimate gun owners. That is not the problem. The problem is something that is so obvious it is staring us in our faces and we can't deal with it, and I think that is a tragedy. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Anyone else care to speak to the subject of overruling? Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Haberman.