

PRESIDENT: Okay. Okay.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, for those folks, those senators who are opposed to LB 642, as I am, I would strongly suggest that you support, that you vote for the committee amendments. What this will do is it will gut the bill. It will take the seven-day waiting period problem completely out of the issue and will put in its place a constitutional amendment bill which takes 30 votes to pass. So if we adopt the committee amendments, we gut the bill, the seven-day waiting period goes away and now becomes a constitutional amendment bill and, therefore, takes 30 votes to pass to put it on the ballot. If, for some reason, the proponents of the seven-day waiting period could muster 30 votes to put it on the ballot, when it was on the ballot in November I am quite confident that the citizens of Nebraska would defeat the constitutional amendment because it takes away the right to bear arms. Now you have heard Senator Chizek say that he has been negotiating with Senator Brad Ashford and he's been negotiating with the NRA to come to some sort of an agreement on the bill. We don't know what that is. Senator Chizek says, don't hold up the bill. So I am saying to you we won't be holding up the bill, we will be doing what I said. To me, this is the easiest and best way to defeat the seven-day waiting period if that's what this body wishes to do. So I would strongly urge the senators to vote for the committee amendments. Although the committee chairman frowns upon this, I would suggest that you do this because it's not my fault that the seven-day waiting period people backed themselves into a corner. That's their fault, not mine. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Ashford, did you wish to speak about the committee amendments?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you. Briefly, Mr. President and members, Senator Chizek did summarize adequately, I think, what transpired concerning LB 642. I would just reemphasize a couple of points. Initially, when LB 642 was introduced, it was introduced as a seven-day waiting period and at the time of the hearing, as Senator Chizek rightly says, there was a great deal of concern in our state that...that the decisions of the two North Platte judges would have really a devastating effect on the ability of Nebraska law enforcement and prosecutors to prosecute for even the most basic felon in possession type laws.