

of firearms, and I think, what is extremely interesting, a statute that I alluded to earlier, 28-1209, which provides that any person who fails or neglects to register any gun or other device designed, adapted or used for projecting darts or other missiles containing tranquilizers or other chemicals or compounds which will produce unconsciousness or temporary disability in live animals with the county sheriff of the county in which the owner of the gun or device resides commits the offense of failure to register tranquilizer guns and that offense has a penalty of a Class III misdemeanor. So, in Nebraska, we do have gun registration to protect animals. We do have gun registration as well in the City of Omaha and that gun registration ordinance has been in effect for a number of years. What it provides is that when an individual wishes to purchase any firearm that he or she must go down to the police station and obtain a permit from the Omaha Police Department, take that permit back to the gun dealer and then obtain possession of the firearm. At the police station, the individual is fingerprinted and a check is done on the computer to determine whether or not the individual is a felon, convicted felon. And I will get into this a later, but in Omaha last month, in the month of January there were 18 felons who attempted to purchase firearms in the City of Omaha. In fact, there was one case that was described to me by a local law enforcement official where an individual who had just a couple of days before assaulted a police officer and then two or three days later attempted to purchase a handgun through that system and was stopped. So that system of registration which does involve some time limit and some check is effective in the City of Omaha. Now, who supports this kind of legislation? You have a packet in front of you, I think, which goes through that issue. It...you have in that packet the polls that have been taken in the State of Nebraska. The most recent poll was a Lincoln Journal poll which found that 87 percent of Nebraskans support legislation that would require a seven-day waiting period before the purchase of a handgun. There were earlier polls done by the Omaha World-Herald which had results somewhat similar to that overwhelming number of individuals supporting such legislation. But, most importantly, I guess, other than the citizens, other groups obviously support...also support this but, most importantly, amongst them I would guess would be law enforcement. Every agency of law enforcement in the State of Nebraska supports the seven-day waiting period, every single one. On this body, we defer to experts on almost every technical issue that comes before us. On agricultural issues, in education issues, we defer to experts