

and we say, what do you need or what is appropriate for us to deal with on this legislative floor in your area of expertise? And every law enforcement agency says a seven-day waiting period is needed. And those are law enforcement agencies across the State of Nebraska. Teachers' organizations support it. The retired citizens of Nebraska through the AARP support it, of which there are 188,000 members. Doctors and nurses support it and those are the individuals who deal with the victims of these homicides on a daily basis. And, ladies and gentlemen, and members, even the NRA supports waiting periods. The NRA most recently supported a 15-day waiting period in the State of Oregon. Just last week or early this week the NRA sent a 22,000-letter mailing into the State of Nebraska opposing the seven-day waiting period. Now, I would suggest to you members and to the people of the State of Nebraska why can't we in Nebraska have what Oregon has? Why does the NRA feel that we in Nebraska should not have...I would like them to tell us that, that if they would think that the citizens of Oregon should be protected, why can't the citizens of Nebraska be protected? What is the reason? I don't think there is a good reason and that's why we haven't heard one, but, basically, they have also supported checks in Virginia and the NRA has supported a check in Florida in the past few months. So the NRA is on record currently supporting this kind of legislation and in the 1970s the NRA had as its agenda item a seven-day waiting period, that a seven-day waiting period was a necessary tool for law enforcement to protect legitimate citizens who have a legal right to own weapons to protect those individuals. Why is it that we feel it is so necessary to protect drug dealers, to protect felons and give them the same rights that legitimate law abiding citizens have? It's absolutely beyond me that we would want to do that in our state. Several other states have adopted waiting period legislation, 23 states have adopted certain forms of waiting periods. And do they work in other states? And in your handout I have given you some examples of the fact that it does work and I already alluded to the Omaha example where 18 felons last month were stopped from buying weapons under the Omaha system. In California, in 1988-89, 1,803 prohibited persons were stopped from buying handguns, from purchasing handguns. In Illinois, in 1988, 2,470 individuals were stopped from buying handguns. In Indiana, a state quite similar to Nebraska, since from 1980 through 1988, 11,155 individuals were stopped from buying handguns in that state. In New Jersey, in 1988, 637 people were denied permits to purchase guns. It seems to me that...and I would like to hear an argument that it is