

a hurried letter. This guy was really ready. His name is Jerry Spahn. He lives up on North 14th Street in my district. And we got done with our discussion and Jerry, who is an NRA member, and I, Jerry had gotten me to agree to the principle that an unreasonable, unworkable hand-controlled gun is a mistake if it's unreasonable and unworkable. He had also gotten me to agree to the principle that a slogan isn't necessarily good policy. In the reverse, I had gotten Jerry to agree to the principle that a reasonable seven-day waiting period law wasn't unfair if, in fact, the law was reasonable. And, secondly, we both agreed that there was no right to sell arms to incompetents, to the underaged, to the felons, to the mentally infirm. Both of us got done with this conversation. We were...neither one of us had raised our voices, called each other names, nor, I will be happy to report, pulled a gun on the other. And it gave me hope that, in fact, there is some prospect for agreement. He said, now Dave, listen, I don't like 642, I don't like the provisions. I think it's overbroad. I think it's got some problems in definition. I think it's got problems in the way this form is supposed to be done. And he had a series of technical problems. He says, listen, if you want a workable law, there are workable laws out there. Iowa has a workable system, I consider that. I don't like this bill but, in fact, there are some models out there. What I got done with the conversation was this, I got done with this guy who owns, sells firearms, who is not a crazy, and he says, you're right, it's fair enough that we have a reasonable seven-day waiting period if you can draft a law that's reasonable. But what's unfair is if it's unworkable and unreasonable and, at this point, he thinks 642 qualifies for that definition. If I understand Jerry Chizek right, he says he is prepared to sit down and work on drafting a reasonable seven-day waiting period law, not only from Brad Ashford's point of view but from the point of view of, well, the Jerry Spahns of the world. And that, to me, seems to be a fair discussion to go forward. I want that to go forward. I don't want it short-circuited today. I don't want to steamroll over these 13 amendments. I don't want to put it aside because, frankly, while I expected there to be a Grand Canyon between me and some of the people on the other side of this issue, I found that, while it's not just a little brook, there is some space between us that, in fact, we can communicate across that distance, that there was some sense of agreement that...that it's true I have not been intrinsically given constitutionally the right to sell a .357 to an eight-year-old, to a mentally incompetent, to a felon, that my