

urge that we pass this bill, that if necessary it be clarified, but that the concept is a good one, and that as years pass the tide has shifted, the NRA can no longer intimidate legislators, they can no longer intimidate representatives in government. When the vast majority of people are looking at the problems created by unrestricted sale of handguns, they are saying the consequences of it, and they are saying, no, we've got to try and offer some kind of restraint. We've got to try and limit some of the tragedies that are occurring in our country because of the way handguns are sold to anybody and everybody. When law enforcement officers are coming and saying, we need some kind of restrictions, and these aren't, you know, radical, liberal people coming to say that you need some kind of handgun controls, these are people engaged with law enforcement, having to be out there on the streets, trying to keep an orderly society, trying to prevent crime, trying to prevent violence. They are coming forward and saying, we need some kind of restraints. I was struck at a luncheon, or I was struck during a luncheon we had last week, by one of the law enforcement persons from Omaha saying that under their policies you have to sign some kind of request to purchase a handgun in Omaha, but he said they're just automatically granted, there is no real check on the background of the person seeking the handgun purchase. And, he said, last year there were three individuals who came to him within a short period of time requesting the purchase of a handgun, they signed the necessary forms...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: There were so many of them that he accepted their forms. They went out and got their guns and they killed themselves. There were three suicides, people that went out and got the gun in this manner, they had mental problems. It seems to me that if you had some kind of check, if you had some kind of waiting day period...time that maybe you could prevent some of these tragedies, like the suicides or the crimes of passion, the instantaneous homicides and violence. You're not going to prevent all of them, that's a given. The seven-day waiting period isn't going to solve all the problems. But it is what I see as a reasonable and modest proposal at this time to offer some kind of restraint on the whole...the whole process. And, for that reason, I support the concept wholeheartedly, I hope that it is...that you will support it as well. If clarifications need to be made, fine. But to compromise on the concept, I don't think there should be any compromise