

whatsoever. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Time. Thank you. Senator Ashford, please, followed by Senator Hefner and Senator Haberman.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President and members. To answer Senator McFarland's concerns about compromise, I will tell him that there is no compromise on the concept, in my book. That it is justifiable for law enforcement and for the citizens of the State of Nebraska to want to make sure that felons do not possess firearms by going into a licensed dealer, lying on the form and purchasing a firearm. That's a legitimate concern by the citizens of our state. And also I think there does need to be a waiting period, and those are concepts which are not subject to compromise. I think I'd like to discuss a couple of issues. First of all, the NRA and what their role has been. I've heard, on the floor today, people saying, well, in the last couple of days I have received lots of letters telling me to oppose this bill. Well, as you know or you may know or may not know, that the NRA sent out a mailing to the citizens of Nebraska, 2,200 letters, telling NRA members to call their senators to urge them to vote against this bill. And that's why you're getting those calls today. And I would suggest that you look at the number of calls maybe you got six months ago, or three weeks ago and see whether or not there is that kind of opposition. Also, the NRA is interesting because when I first proposed this provision, and it came to me through law enforcement, not very liberal individuals but very tough, trench police officers who deal with these problems every day, and said, we really need some help in this area, I was...there was an alert that went out from the NRA that said, Brad Ashford is out to get your guns. And with no discussion of seven-day waiting periods and why they are necessary, no discussion about why the NRA has changed their position from supporting waiting periods, no discussion about why they supported a waiting period in Oregon and would not support a waiting period in Nebraska, so I think we have to take a look and decide what is the motivation of the NRA in this case? Is it to stop any kind of legislation, even if it is legislation that is not radical at all but is, in effect, conservative legislation that is supported and brought to this body by those individuals who are experts in the area? I think that's really the issue. I'd like to talk a little bit about the right to bear arms amendment. When I was in Wisconsin, a couple of weeks ago, talking about the right to bear arms amendment, and some of the concerns that law