

really need to do and I would just urge the adoption, or that is the passage of LB 1018 on to Select File. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senators Pirsch and Lynch are announcing the presence of some elementary students in the south balcony, 51 fifth graders from Springville Elementary in Omaha with their teacher. Would you folks please wave and allow the Legislature to welcome you, please. Thank you. Thank you for coming. Senator Ashford, please.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President and members, just briefly, I think that when we deal with the problems of gun violence in our society we are required to look at the total picture, and at the time we were debating LB 642, I argued and many others did as well that it's necessary that in dealing with the gun violence problem in our society that law enforcement be given the tools that it needs to make sure that felons do not have an easy access to firearms in our society, and I believe sincerely that that is a tool that is necessary in order to be a piece of the puzzle that law enforcement needs to deal with the epidemic of gun violence in our society. But I also would agree with those who argue that it's necessary to define specifically crimes and with punishments for gun-related activity that adds to that violence. And I would suggest to you that Senator Abboud's bill which specifically sets out a crime and provides for a Class IV felony punishment is an effort to define in a very succinct way a crime which is related, directly related to gun violence in our society in Nebraska. And if we as a body could simply look at these issues as they are put before us and determine whether or not we believe as individual senators whether or not these measures will help law enforcement combat gun violence, then I think it's appropriate that we vote for them. I think Senator Abboud's measure is one of those specifically well-defined provisions that gives to the police in our communities some ability or some greater ability to deal with gun violence, as is the LB 642 another reasonable gun registration type measures that allow police to have some idea who is owning a handgun in our society. I think we've got two basic pieces to the puzzle broken down, that can be broken down into many components. One is attempting to keep felons away from easy access to firearms, that is one piece. We really don't have any laws in Nebraska to do anything with that now. The other side of the coin is once someone violates our gun laws, that we come down on them very, very hard and that the punishments fit the crime in our society. We need both. I