

support Senator Abboud's bill because it is one piece, it is one side of the equation, but I also urge, when you're thinking about this bill, that you also remember that there is a total complete other side of the equation which we are ignoring and that is allowing felons easy access to firearms, and if we don't do something to check that, I believe we are going to have to continue to describe and to pass crimes and punishments on the other side of the ledger because we're not dealing effectively with the other side of the ledger. So I support Senator Abboud, I support, and I appreciate the work of the Judiciary Committee in tightening the law because that is extremely important that we do that even though we have laws out there which prosecutors can use to prosecute gun-related felonies. It is my fear and my concern, and I'm sure Senator Abboud's, that those laws are too general in their application or are not being enforced for whatever reason and that we need more specific language. So with that, I would concur with with the other, with Senator Beck and Senator Abboud that this bill be advanced. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Elmer and the Chair are jointly announcing the presence of some members of the Farnam, Nebraska, girls basketball team under the south balcony. Would you folks please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. Thank you, we're glad to have you with us. Also a special note that Senator Lynch has his granddaughter with him this morning, Katy O'Mera Freeman from Omaha. Katy, we're glad to have you. Senator Chambers, further discussion, followed by Senator Abboud.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this is one of those bills that I'm not going to launch a lot of opposition to or resistance to because I don't really think it does anything. If a person discharges a firearm into a building where there are people or into a vehicle, then I believe a felony charge can be brought now. The fact is that the prosecutors are not charging felonies. The existence of this bill is not necessarily going to change any of that. Then there is the matter of proof. Senator...well, I'll see if Senator Bernard-Stevens raises a question that I think was a valid question to be asked, but the reason the bill was brought based on the testimony, if I remember it, and let me ask Senator Abboud because I can get it from him and then I don't have to try to reconstruct it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Abboud, would you respond.