

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR McFARLAND: This particular bill, with the amendment, I think offers a reasonable restraint. It doesn't prohibit people who are wanting to purchase arms for lawful purposes. What it is directed at and I think where it would have a positive effect is to try and curtail such purposes when the reason for the purpose is to commit some kind of impulsive act of violence, whether it is someone coming in wanting to purchase a gun to commit suicide, or wanting to purchase a gun for the specific reason that they want to go out and shoot their wife or their husband or their family member or a friend or an enemy. It is to try and offer some kind of reasonable restraint and establish a procedure whereby one couldn't just go down to the local pawnshop or the local gun dealer and pay cash, get the gun, and run home or run back to a bar, or run back to some kind of business...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR McFARLAND: ...and shoot someone or shoot yourself. That is what you are trying to do. I think if the bill would pass, you would see some of these impulsive acts curtailed.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, we skipped you a little bit ago. Did you wish to speak?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, if I could, Mr. President. I appreciate very much the opportunity to speak in favor of the amendment and the bill. I admire very much Senator Ashford taking on the issue, and for all those who support this legislation. It is not an easy thing to do. We have clearly had an outpouring of opposition to this measure from those that belong to the National Rifle Association, I am sure sincere and dedicated individuals all, but we have a sincere and dedicated group of individuals that support this legislation as well, and let me tell you why I feel very strongly that we need to have a waiting period and some more restrictions on the access to handguns. I have always felt generally in this way but I had an experience last summer with a friend of mine who was down in Texas, in Corpus Christi, Texas, and had a roommate who developed mental problems, in fact, and this roommate ended up finally going berserk and threatening this friend of mine with a gun. Went out and bought a gun to threaten my friend. My friend talked him out of the situation, got the gun away, and that situation