

debate started, various handouts. One of the first ones was a letter from law enforcement across the state supporting LB 642, McCook, Lexington, Lincoln, Papillion, Wayne, Sioux City, Gering, North Platte, Blair, Ogallala, Fremont, Holdrege, Alliance, Kearney, Beatrice, Norfolk, Columbus, Nebraska City, Omaha, Bellevue, Falls City, Seward, Boys Town, York, Grand Island and Sidney. Law enforcement has supported this bill from the very beginning and continues to do so. Just to answer...and also I've handed out, or you should have in front of you, statistics from states that do have actual waiting periods much longer than what we're proposing in this bill and you can see from those, that handout that the checks do work. And I've said over and over again the checking for felons does work in Omaha and it is something that law enforcement wants to do. Checking is something that law enforcement does all the time. They check when they stop someone for speeding. They check when they stop someone for anything. They are used to doing that. Law enforcement does not believe that there will be an additional cost involved. It will not result in the necessity of increasing the number of police officers. There is no evidence to that effect. The argument just does not have evidence to support it. Senator Hefner talked about the fact that automobiles kill people, and clearly, they do kill people. We register and license automobiles or regulate automobiles probably more than any other instrumentality in our lives. They mentioned animals. We have a law on the books in Nebraska which requires the registration of animal tranquilizer guns. That law is on the books now. So I think that...and we also have rules and regulations about the size of knives that can be carried in the State of Nebraska. I think what this really comes down to is a decision by you, if you accept the fairly well-spread belief around this country that we need reasonable registration, reasonable restrictions on the purchase of firearms, whether or not this is reasonable. And I think that we have attempted to show and I believe we have shown, one, that there is a problem. It has been identified over and over again in Nebraska. We've come up with a solution that no other state has. This is not a solution that has been dropped upon us by Washington, nor...it is a solution that is a purely Nebraska solution. I believe it is eminently reasonable. We've made, at least from my standpoint from where I started on this bill, made significant concessions in this bill I think to accommodate the individuals who are...buy and sell guns in the normal course. I think we've done a good job here. I think that especially Senator Chizek in his effort and his committee has done an excellent job in