

are not felons, people who for one reason or another are very troubled, similar in some respects to the abortion situation, people who are troubled because of problems in their family or problems in their jobs who out of...in the depths of depression find no other way out other than to commit some kind of act upon themselves and the facts or statistics indicate overwhelmingly that the weapon of choice in those kinds of situations are guns and specifically handguns. It's amazing to me when faced with the statistics that we have in Nebraska that we would ignore them and simply say that because of some rights out there that are somewhat debatable anyway that we are going to, as a state, ignore the fact that there are people out there that need our help, there are people out there who need to have that time before they go in and purchase a gun and do harm to themselves or others. It's happened 11 times in Lincoln in the last couple of years, identifiable, documented cases of individuals who did harm to themselves or others within a very short period of time after going into a gun store and purchasing a gun. And I've been told over and over again that these things don't work, Senator Hefner, I don't know how many times he's said it, these laws don't do any good; and he didn't give me any statistics to rebut what I've said that there are cases in Omaha, there are cases in North Platte, there are cases in Grand Island and cases in Lincoln where people have easy access, who have easy access to firearms do harm to themselves, to family members, to friends, to neighbors. If they had only had a period of time to reflect upon that decision, to be informed as to what they were doing and to think about what they were doing, maybe not in all cases, but in an awful lot of the cases I would submit to you if you use common sense you would come to that conclusion that those individuals would maybe not do harm to themselves and others, that people would be alive today if we had some sort of basic rational policy in force so that individuals would not be able to go in and buy a handgun like they can a toothbrush or a magazine, that they would simply have to wait in this case under LB 642...under LB 642 now at max 48 hours and it could be much, much, a much, much shorter period of time. And I would agree with Senator Hefner I guess if we were talking about bans on firearms, if we were talking about restricting the use of firearms...

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.