

the use of them or we'd like to try and put an end to that if at all possible. And to do that we're suggesting that there be a waiting period, that there be a check on these individuals; and that certainly the other side of the argument is that we don't want felons and we don't want mentally ill individuals dangerous to themselves and others in possession of handguns. I think that's the argument that the opposition to this bill have that they seem to be suggesting that it's okay and not a problem to not make people wait. If they're in a heat of passion wanting to hurt somebody with a gun, want a gun immediately, they don't seem to worry about that situation, have nothing to propose in that area or if somebody's a felon or is mentally deranged they ought not to be checked to make sure that they are capable and fit to handle the purchase of a gun. And so I think the other side of the coin, Senator Hefner, doesn't make any sense to me that you would take that position or any other individual. I'm not picking on you. And so it just seems logical and makes sense to me to pursue this issue, but the votes were not there before and I don't anticipate they'll be here today. But I do hope in time we will recognize the validity of this issue that overwhelmingly eighty some percent of Nebraskans support this, and I hope we could in time, not this year but maybe some year, be able to pursue this issue and see that something is done about this problem. With that I give the rest of my time to Senator Chambers if he wants it or I guess he's up next so I'll just end on that.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Chambers followed by Senator Ashford.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Hefner made the kind of comments that you run up against on the part of opponents to legislation such as this. There's no way you can compare a rope to what a pistol does or gasoline. Those things have entirely different purposes, and I'm sure if I was angry at Senator Hefner, angry enough to do something to him and I'm over here and he's over there, he'd rather that I have a piece of rope in my hand than a pistol. We all know the obvious difference between these types of items, and when those kinds of arguments of the sort Senator Hefner gave are the best that they can muster, it demonstrates that either they're not prepared to deal with the facts or they don't know what the facts are. There have not been, Senator Hefner, a homicide a day in Omaha. There were fifty something in the whole state last year, the whole year. So when those kind of exaggerations are made, it