

before I get started with some points I would like to make on my opening. I would like to just for a moment thank...could I get a gavel, Madam President, please. (Gavel.) And could I get my minutes back? No, I would like to thank the co-sponsors to LB 355, Senator Will, Senator Crosby, Senator Landis, Hall, Schimek, Beutler, Chambers, Wesely and Rasmussen for their support in this measure. And I would also like to thank my staff, Margaret and S'ly and Doug Clark from last year who have worked almost single-handedly with the staffs of these...could I get a gavel, Madam President, please. (Gavel.) And I appreciate their support and the support of law enforcement across the state and many individuals who have given us a great deal of support since last year when this bill was first introduced. Oscar Wilde once said that the first duty of life is to strike a pose and we all strike poses every day in this body on important measures. LB 355 is such a measure. Many of us have struck a pose and taken a position. By doing so, we have, according to Wilde, struck a pose and fulfilled our first duty of life and that is to take positions on difficult issues. The second duty of life, and that's more difficult, is to reason, to reach within ourselves to question. That's the second duty, the duty that I will be addressing here today. In this process there has been one person who has challenged me, who has challenged the pose that I have struck, made me see that like a Picasso painting there are several ways to perceive the same image. LB 355 was first introduced last year with the seven-day waiting period provision. Senator Chizek, in an effort to draw a piece of legislation that reflected the Nebraska experience with firearms, suggested that the Omaha ordinance be applied statewide. It works in Omaha. There is a cooling off period. There is a background check. Gun dealers were concerned about gun shows. Senator Chizek suggested that gun shows be exempted and drafted an amendment which is now in LB 355. Now, again, Senator Chizek has challenged us again, as he has done three times before, and he has challenged me again to look inside myself and to be reasonable and to be understanding and to see that there is a room, room for a middle ground. He has tried over and over again to bring the National Rifle Association into this dialogue. And I'm sure he can tell you about his experience in dealing with them. He has proposed an amendment which addresses each and every concern that has been raised by the National Rifle Association throughout the last two years. The Chizek amendment that you will hear about today provides no gun registration, exempts all family member transfers, exempts gun shows, and provides for an annual permit