

constituents of Senator Pirsch. We have Chris Reinary and Chris Coquet from Omaha. They are under the north balcony. Would you please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. The next speaker is Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature, from the first this year in my letters and in phone conversations with many, many people, I have opposed LB 355 and opposed LB 801, actually because I did not see how they would accomplish what I think we all want to do and that is to have no more shootings with guns. But it's a little unrealistic to think that passing a law here, even the amendment which I support, or 801 or 355 would affect a lawbreaker. I do support this amendment. I think it is the person that we want to check out that we want to register. And that's a legitimate way to go about it, is the people...it is the person who kills, and I think that's an NRA slogan, not the gun. But my problem is I don't think we're going to stop the criminal from using a gun or getting a gun. They're going to get it no matter what we do. So what it comes down to is what are we willing to mandate on the law-abiding, honest citizen of our state and that's really what it comes down to. And many of those honest, law-abiding citizens and law enforcement people are the ones who are agitating for something to be done about gun control. I think we all have a concern for the emotional impulse buyer of a gun who uses it in a tragic shooting of another person or suicide, and also to safeguard those who are...have been mentally adjudicated, to have some way of knowing those people or in allowing some time to go by so those people can either be helped or diverted. No, we're not going to stop the criminal. We're not going to stop the felon who uses a gun for violence. And so, to the honest, law-abiding citizens of the State of Nebraska, really it's up to you to speak up and tell us if this probably...the amendment by Senator Chizek is probably not the best way to go about this where we want the person to be checked out, you know, no criminal, no felon is going to go...walk down to do it. But, for those law-abiding citizens that can go in, get registered, get checked, and then have that permit for a year, whether they buy no guns or whether they buy 10 guns, and so I do support Senator Chizek's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Next speaker, Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you. Very briefly, I want to cite two