

to simply go in and buy a handgun without any thinking about that.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR HORGAN: And so I think this is a reasonable approach. I think it's responsible and I think most NRA members would agree with it. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Horgan. Senator Wesely, is he back yet? Is he here? I do not see him. We'll go to Senator Schmit. Is he here? I don't see Senator Schmit. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and members, I suppose it's almost foolish to be talking a lot about this because minds are pretty well made up and I'm not going to be talking a long time. But, for the life of me, I can't understand why common, decent, ordinary citizens, which most people are, can be opposed to this type of legislation. I can't see how it can be considered a punishment to try to have a background check for somebody that wants to own a weapon. Senator Horgan mentioned it. I had driver's license in mind but we can go on and on and on in terms of the people that we license, whether it's hairdressers, barbers, or whatever. Admittedly, it's for a different purpose but we want a standard for those type of activities, why can't we expect to have that kind of demands upon a weapon which is one of the most deadly weapons...deadly things that man has probably invented, especially a handgun. I can't see where it restricts anybody that wants to do this for any ordinary purpose. We talk about having to get a permit every year, how many permits is the average person going to get in a lifetime? One, two, maybe at the most, maybe never. So why is it such a burden to have to get a check for the average typical person, even just once, which is what I would guess it would be. How many weapons does a person...handguns does a person have to have in order to feel safe? I can't imagine going that far. And so if you need a weapon, you're going to be able to get one. It has only a short time and you can get that without restriction. It just doesn't seem to me that this is going anywhere beyond what an ordinary citizen really would want...would expect. And, admittedly, all the old arguments that a criminal is going to get them, and so forth, is there. But we know that the statistics show that a family or an acquaintance is one that does most of the harm with a weapon and it just seems to me that