

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Senator Beutler, excuse me.

**SENATOR BEUTLER:** Thank you, sir. Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would like to speak in support of the bill as it is presently drafted. And I think we are at a point where a reasonable compromise has been reached, particularly from my point of view. I consider myself a strong supporter of the constitutional amendment dealing with the right to bear arms. And, as I remember the discussions that our founding fathers had about this particular amendment, the reason that they thought this was important was because they feared dictatorship arising through military coups either from the police powers or from the national armies. And, as you look at that particular proposition, so much time has passed and we've had so little problem with that that you begin to think, well, maybe that's not so important. But I think it is very important. I think it is very important to counterbalance that danger that the citizenry continues to have the right to bear arms. It used to be in the old days when the citizen had a musket and the army regular had a musket, that it was a much more important counterbalancing force. Now we have a squirrel gun and the army has M-16s. So perhaps you could argue even stronger that the right to bear arms should be kept intact and I think you can. I think it should. But, at the same time that we recognize that, we should also recognize, one, that the bill as now formulated does not prevent anybody from acquiring any type of firearm. Along with recognizing that fact, I think we should also recognize another fact that's been talked about a lot but I'm not sure we get a real sense of it. There are very real emotions that are maybe once in a lifetime, twice in a lifetime, half a dozen times in a lifetime emotions, emotions like shock, emotions like panic. I was in a restaurant once where everybody, in fact, panicked, and I tell you it's a state of mind that is something you cannot really understand until you have experienced it. It's outside of your normal experience. And there is anger and there is obsession. And those are other kinds of emotions that are outside of our normal experience but we know from the newspaper that obsession, that anger overtakes many, many individuals, perhaps all individuals in our society from time to time, good people, good people normally. But they have these experiences and, for me, it's not keeping guns out of the hands of criminals that this is all about. That's not why I want a short waiting period. The check is good, the check for felonies, that's proper. But I think another important aspect