

to see any gun control in our state, and they voiced that concern extremely vociferously to me as I traveled from town to town. But it was interesting, after I had an opportunity to discuss these issues with primarily gun dealers and gun owners across the state, we had good, long sessions, hour, hour and a half, two hour sessions in these towns. Oftentimes, after the session was over, I had people come up to me and thank me very much, first of all, for being there, and for taking the time to listen to them and their concerns. And certainly not all of them, but many of them came up to me and said that they appreciated what we were trying to do in LB 355, that it was a reasonable alternative. I know many of you have received cards, letters, and telephone calls as a result of alerts that have been sent out pretty much on a daily basis by the National Rifle Association. And those alerts have denominated LB 355 as an evil...part of the evil empire of gun control. I would suggest to you...And that was certainly the response I got from several people across the state when they heard the number 355. I guess I urge all of you, as I did the people that I talked to across the state, to try to put numbers behind us and look at the substance of legislation, because LB 355 is not a Draconian measure. It is a good, solid piece of legislation that, thanks to Senator Schellpeper's cooperation, I think meets some of the concerns that he is raising in LB 801, and still maintains the basic principles behind the concepts that I've tried to bring to this body over the last three years. Some of the objections, as this bill matured through the process in the last three years, were certainly from the side of the gun owners some of the objections were, what do we do about gun shows, for example. Is this gun registration? I think I heard in every town that I went to the hue and cry you cannot register our guns, we won't have our guns registered. And I can tell you that LB 355, as I've said before, is not gun registration. There is no element of gun registration in LB 355. And if your constituents are telling you that they believe this to be gun registration, I would just ask you to inform them to read the bill, or ask them to read the bill, and they will see that there is no gun registration in LB 355. Another concern was that...how are we going to buy guns at gun shows, if we have to have this kind of permit system? Well, in fact, the certificate to purchase system would allow anyone to buy...who qualifies for a certificate to buy guns at gun shows without any further checking to be done. There are some concerns about police having the power and authority to deny certificates, and we've, in the amendments to the bill, we have made it clear that the