

convicted felon, they should not be able to own...to possess any firearm.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, as we move along think about it, because I think time is up here.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. I have a list of speakers I will check to see if you want to speak to the Chambers amendment. Senator Warner, did you wish to address the Chambers amendment? Senator Chizek. Senator Hefner, the Chambers amendment. I don't see Senator Hefner. Senator Crosby, did you wish to address the Chambers amendment? Senator Schmit. Nobody is in here. Senator Ashford, did you wish to address the Chambers amendment?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think Senator Chambers has raised an interesting constitutional issue that is worthy of debate. I know I've heard his discussion on the issue before. And I think it's an interesting concept, the question of whether or not a convicted felon, who has not been convicted of a nonviolent crime can or should be deprived of his or her rights to purchase a firearm. And it's a debate that has gone on for a long time. And I think it is an issue worthy of debate. My response to Senator Chambers, other than to acknowledge the importance of that debate, is to tell him that the Brady bill provides that...well under the Brady bill, that if we were to allow a felon, who may have been convicted of a nonviolent felony, to purchase a handgun within our system, the Brady bill, it could be argued, Senator Chambers, but I think an argument could be made, a very good argument could be made that the Brady bill would apply because the Brady bill specifically sets forth the criteria under which the state law on gun control would apply. And one of those criteria is the federal law question of conviction of a felony. So I would...I'm concerned that if we were to adopt this amendment, very concerned that we would most likely still have the Brady law apply. And having said that, however, I am sensitive to Senator Chambers' argument. And I've always had a problem myself, philosophically, making that dichotomy between nonviolent and violent felons. But, be that as it may, I believe for the purposes of this particular legislation the...well, apparently I've just been handed a note which is...that I would just read into the record that any felon can appeal to the Secretary of the...Secretary of the Treasury? Secretary of the Treasury to restore his right to own a firearm, under federal law, I believe