

in our state and throughout the country. And I would hope and trust that Nebraska will join at least the six states so far that have initiated these programs this year. The money that will come out of the...of the funds that are allocated for the computer updating at the State Patrol, and as you recall when we passed LB 355, the permit to purchase gun control law, we also put a provision in there that Senator Schellpeper introduced that would provide an initiative for the State Patrol to update its computer records so that the state could implement an instant check system for gun...handgun purchases. And that was Senator Schellpeper's initiative, one that I agreed with and it is in...certainly is in our permit to purchase law. And the funds that would be utilized out...in this bill to enhance computer...the computer program...the computer search at the State Patrol would blend in with that instant check system. And that's why I feel that this fund is extremely appropriate for the gun education money. The state really has done...this Legislature has come a significant way in the last year in dealing in a very reasonable and unobtrusive way with the problem of handgun violence in our society. This is the next step of gun education and I would urge the body to adopt this amendment to the amendment. And, again, I thank Senator Schellpeper for his ongoing help in this area. And, with that, I would just urge that the body adopt the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Senator Abboud, followed by Senator Schellpeper and Chambers. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, Madam President, colleagues, I would like to thank Senator Ashford for giving the body an opportunity to debate gun bills again this year. It was something that was really lacking from this session, we talked a lot about taxes and other issues that are important but we didn't get the opportunity to really talk about guns. This particular amendment to the bill was a bill that I signed onto. I felt that there were a number of bills that Senator Ashford brought in this year dealing with gun legislation and this was the one that I could support because I felt it's ultimate goal is to reduce the amount of fatalities and injuries caused by guns and that really crosses the line when it comes to questions of gun control versus people that would not support any type of restrictions on the use of guns in their injuries that sometimes do occur. This particular bill works to educate individuals. It works to reduce fatalities caused by weapons and it's a laudable goal. It's a bill that was voted out of Government