

says. All persons are, by nature, free and independent, and have certain inherent and inalienable rights; among these are life, I say amen to that; liberty, amen to that; the pursuit of happiness, amen to that. Then here's where the escapees from the loony bin come in, and the right to keep and bear arms for security or defense of self, family home and others and for lawful common defense, hunting, recreational use and all other lawful purposes and such rights shall not be denied or infringed by the state or any subdivision thereof. To secure these rights and the protection of property, governments are instituted among people deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That last statement is lifted from the Declaration of Independence, but you'll notice that this final statement says to secure these rights and the protection of property. If you read the Constitution and determine that the item which is mentioned first is the one of paramount importance, you'll see that rights of a different kind from property rights are paramount to the property rights. So what I am attempting to do by my amendment, rather than listing all of these rights which are to be protected and...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...guaranteed, I am offering an omnibus amendment which would do the same thing. But when you are trying to raise the level of understanding and awareness, whether it's with children in a classroom or legislators, the best and most effective way to do it is to itemize and take them one at the time so that each can be thoroughly discussed, explained and if there are any questions, the answers can be provided to those questions. This that I'm offering would encompass and include, as silly as I think it is, the right to keep and bear arms and go hunting and doing all those other things with guns, and no rule or regulation by any state agency could be enacted which might have a bearing on the gun keepers unless an analysis is undertaken to determine whether...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Before going on with the debate, I would like to recognize, really like to recognize 37 eighth graders and their sponsor from St. Columbkille School in Papillion, Nebraska. They, of course, are guests of Senator Withem. So we're very pleased to have you with us this morning. Would you stand and be recognized? Senator Crosby.