

the death of more people ages 15 to 24 than all natural causes combined, not just number one but firearms, for 15- to 24-year-olds, of all other types of ways in which they die, they can be added up and they're still less than just the guns and their impact. And they are the number two cause of death for those ages 10 to 34, after car crashes. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, each day 15 children, ages 19 and under, are killed with guns. So clearly our young people are being violently attacked and too many of our kids are being killed by guns. The carving out of a safety zone around our schools is not enough, though it will help. We need to look deeper and further. We need to see how violence...how violent our country has become. Another editorial from the World-Herald I'd like to quote from, the facts damn handguns. In 1990, handguns killed 10 people in Australia, 13 in Sweden, 22 in Great Britain, handguns killed 68 people in Canada, 87 in Japan, and 91 in Switzerland. In the same year handguns killed 10,567 Americans. When accidents and suicides are included, the FBI Uniform Crime Report said more than 24,000 Americans were killed every year by handguns. So either through murder or suicide and accidents you kill, through handguns, between 10,500 and 24,000 Americans a year versus a handful in most of the other countries. And some of these, when you talk about Japan you're talking about a country that is of significant size. Some of these other countries are smaller population, but nevertheless clearly the rate of death by handguns is much greater in our country. One of the reasons cited, 200 million firearms are in the possession of private citizens in this country, more than 67 million of them are handguns. When I had the chance to travel to Japan this figure and these statistics that compare our country to others became very apparent to me. In Japan they don't allow handguns except for the police, and even the police don't have handguns. Except for certain situations they usually walk around with white gloves and a billy club. They also allow handguns and guns in terms of sport activity. But in effect Japan has no guns except in very limited conditions, similar to shooting ranges. It's because of this, when I heard of this bill and I thought back to these figures that I thought...I thought I might want to make this point that as other countries talk about allowing these sort of shooting ranges that we're talking about today and how we might expand them to allow more access to the...for individuals who want to shoot off guns, here we are talking about the other side, that we've got guns everywhere, they're in homes, they're across the country and we're trying to carve out some places around our schools that