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recently, the Senate unanimously approved reforms to the Safe Drinking Water Act--reforms that remove many costly and unnecessary testing requirements placed on Nebraska's communities. At the state level, an executive order that I signed requires state agencies to stop imposing mandates on local governments. My Local Control Taxpayer Relief Act goes even further, making additional state unfunded mandates illegal. The Nebraska Mandate Initiative, which I began in 1994, continues to help communities more effectively manage existing federal and state mandates. Through this partnership, state government helps local governments prioritize environmental issues based on risk so that they can spend their resources wisely. We continue to face challenges in dealing with low-level nuclear waste disposal. While the search for a solution continues, we must all do what we can to protect Nebraska from potential unfair liability in that area. Excuse me. We face one of our greatest challenges in the area of crime. This past summer, every Nebraskan was touched by the tragic death of Omaha police officer Jimmy Wilson Jr. His father, Mr. Wilson, Sr., is here with us today and I want to say to you, Mr. Wilson, that your son's service to Nebraska will not be forgotten and we will work together to make sure that, as his memory lives on, others are benefitted by our tragic loss. We appreciate your stepping forward as a citizen to lead us in the way to help our local law enforcement officials. We appreciate what you are doing. Thank you very much. And as we mourn the loss of this young Nebraskan, we also continue to be outraged by the increasing level of violence in our state. We've discovered a shortcoming in our state's definition of the aggravating circumstances considered for imposition of the death penalty, and I'm proposing legislation that will make it clear that the murder of a law enforcement officer while in the performance of his or her duties is an aggravating circumstance under which the death penalty may be imposed. Our aggressive strategies to strengthen laws and lengthen stays are putting more dangerous criminals behind bars and keeping them there for longer periods of time. But that has led to another challenge--overcrowding in the state correctional system has reached the crisis point. If we fail to deal with this overcrowding problem today, the courts will intervene and tell us what we have to do. The result will be a solution that may not fit Nebraska's needs, a solution that will almost certainly cost taxpayers more. For the good of the state, we must control our own destiny in this area and three initiatives will help reduce the overcrowding problem. First,