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the Legislature, as Nebraska state senators, we have all taken an oath to uphold both state and federal constitutions, including the Second Amendment. I don't believe this law is about protecting ourselves from criminals. I believe it is about the proliferation of guns in our community. The right to bear arms appears in the same list of liberties as the right to free speech. And I'm not going to argue about the original intent of the drafters when guaranteeing the right to bear arms. We need to focus on today's problems and balance our liberties with our community's well-being. It's been pointed out that as gun ownership has risen in the last few years violent crime rates have dropped, yet there is no correlation between the two. Historically, violent crime has dropped during the same period that our economy has boomed and unemployment dropped. People who have guns or, excuse me, people who have jobs and incomes find criminal activity less appealing. When unemployment rises again, crime rates will go up regardless of how many people have guns. So, again, I do not believe this is about protecting ourselves from criminals. It is about the proliferation of guns in our community. Some have concluded that the rash of school shootings across the country would not have happened if teachers were allowed to carry weapons. A Georgia state legislator actually introduced a bill to allow teachers to carry guns in our schools. Making our classrooms a shoot-out at the OK Corral is no way to protect our children. Neither is it any way to protect our communities. If...it's kind of ironic and kind of sad that today is the one year anniversary, in fact, of the school shootings in Jonesboro, Arkansas. I, as long as every other senator on the floor of this Legislature, want to protect our children from violence that's plagued our schools. Unfortunately, guns are a very real part of this violence. I stand ready to ensure we do not allow our shock and outrage at this kind of behavior, the violence in schools, to take away our constitutionally guaranteed rights, but we should and must make...provide for restrictions on the uncontrolled proliferation of guns across out state. We are neither safe...we are neither safe nor secure in an environment that is saturated with guns. Our right to free speech in the same place as our right to bear arms has always had restrictions. We can't libel or slander someone. We cannot yet "fire" in a crowded theater. Free speech faces new challenges today with the World Wide Web. Lawmakers have to deal with the problems advancing