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when we send the message that you solve your problem with guns, not only do you have increased violence towards others, but you have increased violence toward...turned inward. Kids will kill themselves, kids will kill other people the more they get the message that guns are the way to solve your problems.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR KIEL: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Senator Schimek, on the Chambers amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'm going to digress a little bit here and something I've been wanting to do all morning. And that is talk about the Lott figures and the Lott study, because there have been many, many studies that have been done on the Lott study. And I believe that it has been...it has been shown that there have been flaws in his research. There have been studies by researchers at Georgetown University, University of Kentucky, Carnegie-Mellon University, Johns Hopkins University, Emory University, and others as well. And unfortunately, while flaws in the research have been widely documented in scientific literature and his findings dismissed by numerous prominent researches, the gun lobby has successfully used Dr. Lott's flawed conclusions to persuade several state legislatures to loosen restrictions in the mid-nineties. Now, after several years in which the nation as a whole has enjoyed a declining crime rate, there is direct evidence that Lott's conclusions are wrong. A 1999 analysis of crime statistics, conducted by the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, demonstrates that allowing people to carry concealed handguns does not mean less crime. The center found that, as a group, states that rely on permissive concealed weapons laws as a crime-fighting strategy had a significantly smaller drop in crime than states which look to other means to combat crime rather than making it easier to obtain a concealed weapons permit. In the 29 states that have lax CCW laws, where law enforcement must issue concealed permits, the crime rate fell 2.1 percent from 5,397 to 5,285.1 crimes per 100,000 population from 1996 to 1997. During the same period, in the 21 states and the District of Columbia, with strict carry laws, or which