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the amendment is Senator Kiel. Senator Kiel.

SENATOR KIEL: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. Since we have a little part quoted out of the letter that Senator Tyson liked, I thought perhaps I'd take the time to read the whole letter. Dear Senator, this is from the Madison County Sheriff Office. And it's Vern Hjorth, I guess it's Hjorth, I'm not sure. It's the Chairman of the Nebraska Sheriff's Association, Legislature Committee. It appears to be time again to assess the value or benefit of the concealed weapons law in regards to citizens of the state of Nebraska. Actually, there is not much to be assessed with this bill, other than the negative effects it will have on Nebraskans. In polls taken of the people, they overwhelmingly oppose the concept of people carrying concealed weapons. The Fraternal Order of Police, the Police Officers Association, Nebraska Sheriffs Association, MAD DADS, Chiefs of Police Association, and most business associations all oppose the concealed weapons law. All you really have to do to evaluate some of the possible dangers of this law is to look at the recent accidental shooting, in North Platte, Nebraska, by two people who have had long and extensive experiences in training with handguns. I recently saw a TV commercial which stated more people have been killed in the United States in the last two years by handguns than young men and women killed in Vietnam. I don't know about you, but I find this scary. I believe more restrictions should be placed on the ownership and possession of handguns, rather than allow people to carry them in their pockets and purses. And then we go on to, due to the apparent conflict in opinions between the majority of Nebraska's citizens and those of special interest groups, I recommend that this issue be determined by a popular, public vote. With the impact this vote will have on every Nebraskan, let the people of this state voice their stance instead of outside special interest lobbyists, supposedly speaking out for our communities. Let this be the determinant on whether this law is enacted. If you have not made a decision on this issue, vote no on the concealed weapons law. If you are thinking of voting yes on the concealed weapons law, think of the recent accidental shootings in North Platte and the number of people killed in the last two years in this country. We haven't even begun to talk about the fact that most business associations are not enamored of this law. They no doubt are