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SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members. This has been an interesting conversation I think we've had yesterday and today. And I do want to say that I rise, not with a great number of studies here in hand, and not even an endorsement by any groups on either side of the issue. And I don't even have a bunch of letters here to read from constituents. But from listening to some of the arguments, it's very interesting. Yesterday, it was stated that the crime rate continued to go down in Texas, even after a concealed weapons provision was put in place. That could very well be. The crime rate probably did go down before that. But I guess that would prove that the concealed weapons provision did not increase crime. There was also an argument yesterday that 18 to 19,000 more concealed weapons would exist in our state. And I guess I would say, if that statement was, indeed, correct, at least we would know who has these concealed weapons, if the argument is that there would be that many more concealed weapons. It says that there would be more misused guns. I would suggest that this is almost an argument in favor of the bill, because this bill, as we were talking at the side yesterday, how it's very education related. Those possessing the permits would have to go through several stages of learning how to use the guns. There was also an argument yesterday that talked about increasing the retail sales of guns. And I can't say that the retailers are pushing this, or the manufacturers; I haven't heard of that anyway to this point. And I guess on a lighter note, maybe we...if we would sell that many more and generate that much more sales tax, perhaps we could use that increased sales tax to cover the cost of the background checks and so forth. But there might be a certain name for that, I don't know. Yesterday a constituent was watching us on television, and offered many comments, some of which I'd like to share. He mentioned that approximately 2,000 times per year handguns are used in self-defense. And he also stated that a vast majority of the situations ended only when the victim showed that he or she was armed. I think that's very telling. Also, we remember the devastating and terrible situations in Florida, where tourists were targeted with crimes. And the murderers, in these situations, said from the jailhouse interviews, that they targeted these tourists because they were less likely to be armed in Florida, because Florida does have a concealed weapons provision. Yesterday it was also stated that, you know, there weren't that many people in favor of the bill at