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LB 265

that I'm going to apply for a permit. And Senator Kruse wanted to make that clear for his constituency, and I'm not here to speak to my constituency but this bill does not mandate anything. It simply allows a law-abiding citizen, which I want to add emphasis here, a law-abiding citizen to apply for a concealed gun permit. The status of our society right now is one that is sometimes safe, sometimes is not. And yet there are so many comments being made this morning that characterize some negative situations that have nothing to do with the bill because we don't have this policy on our books right now. It's not in statute yet. And certainly there are...and I could come up, I've been pummelled with information over the last several years, and of anecdotal things where a provision such as this would have saved lives, would have actually saved lives. There are all sorts of cases and scenarios where that is the case. And I hope that we can continue in a positive light with this bill because I believe that it will ultimately, not only restore some freedom to individuals but also bring about a safer society. The training mechanism doesn't get enough credit here. I understand that a lot of the oppon...or proponents of this bill don't even want the training mechanism, but Senator Tyson and the committee have come up with a reasonable approach where we would have more people trained. And I really think that that is a positive thing that we can...if we have more people trained in the use of firearms, when all is said and done, if this becomes law, we're better off because a lot of those accidents that happen, especially with children, as Senator Schimek indicated, are the result of a lack of training, whether it's where to store it, who should have access. And my support for LB 265 and the amendment arises out of my immense respect for a firearm and the damage, yes, that it can do, but it doesn't always do that. And I can remember being in a situation where there's some protestors against any kind of gun ownership, and I simply asked one, I said, you know, which gun is this that you're speaking of? And he elaborated, and I pointed out the fact that a gun is an inanimate object. Without the control of a human being behind it, it does nothing. It accomplishes nothing right then and there, and that, and to carry that a step further, it can still not even be fired but the potential that exists can be a positive thing without ever being fired. And I hope that we can advance this because...