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background checks. Does this mean that everyone who applies for a concealed carry permit is going to carry one? No. Does it mean that everyone who applies is going to have to have a safety and background check? Yes. So at least we know that those people who are going to be allowed by the local law enforcement people to carry concealed have gone through the necessary background checks. Both of our daughters, who are now grown, do know how to handle weapons. They have been out with their father more than one time. They know the safety issues behind guns. They understand the responsibilities involved, and they know how to handle handguns, rifles and shotguns. A few years back when our one daughter was in college, she did carry a weapon in her car for a short time because she did, at that time, fear for her safety. Nebraska's current laws relating to concealed weapons are ambiguous and confusing at best. And in a nutshell, carrying a concealed weapon is prohibited unless the circumstances justify that carrying. The problem is, how do we know what those circumstances are? In my opinion, a concealed weapon lawfully carried is equivalent to a fire extinguisher or a first-aid kit. No one claims that a fire extinguisher is a substitute for a fire truck or a first-aid kit a substitute for a doctor. And I won't claim that a handgun is a substitute for a police officer. But the fire department says that we should all have a fire extinguisher. Our doctor says have a first-aid kit on hand, because they allow people an opportunity to help themselves while they are waiting for additional help, and I say the same is true of a handgun. Police can't be everywhere, nor can they be at your side in a matter of seconds, and sometimes seconds count. While you can run from a fire, and possibly make do until more sophisticated medical help arrives, if you are caught up in a violent crime scene, there is no substitute for a handgun. The customer and the employees who were killed in the Norfolk bank robbery last September didn't expect to need a gun that day. But if someone besides the bank robbers had been armed, perhaps the story would have been different. In fact, if Nebraskans had allowed concealed weapons, the robbers might never even have tried because they couldn't tell who might fight back. When guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns. There are already many concealed weapons on the streets.

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.