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FLOOR DEBATE

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support LB 265. I don't see as it makes much difference. I think the problem will always be with the people. It won't be with the guns. And I'll give the rest of my time back to the Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Kruse.

SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I rise again to oppose the base bill, support the committee amendments. Certainly there's much that Senator Tyson and I would agree on. One is that this is not about gun ownership. I think we need to make that real clear among ourselves. This is not about gun ownership. I come from a gun-toting family. Every member of my family when I was growing up had a gun. And I can guarantee you my mother knew how to use hers. So that's not the question. The question is, how does this gun become used in an emotional setting? We talk about that they're going to be mentally stable. I'd hate to have to certify to the mental stability of any person on this floor. How are we going to determine mental stability? It cannot be done. It cannot be done. Let me tell you a story about my friend. My friend is a military man, trained with weapons. Of slight stature, so after he was out, he kept a revolver in his glove compartment, a concealed weapon. He felt that that might be helpful to even the scales if he got against some big guys. He was in a traffic altercation, and saw four big guys coming after him with tire irons. He reached through the door of his...or through the window of his car, into the glove compartment, pulled out the gun, and told them to stand back. They kept coming. He told them he knew how to use the gun, and would use it. They kept coming. He shot one time, killing one of those men. He went to prison for six years. You and I would call it absolute self-defense. But how do I lead a friend or any of my other friends into a situation where they're going to end up in prison for six years? He grieved about that so many times with me. He said, if only I had not had that gun along. I was calm, I was trying to do my very best, but if I'd not had that gun along, I'd have ended up in the hospital instead of in prison, and my wife wouldn't have had to raise those two little boys by herself. We cannot predict, any of us, what we will do in such a tense situation. And to add a gun, even to a responsible person in that situation, simply adds to