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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 265

there are additional costs to cities and counties because of gun...additional gun violence. As an example, you know, it costs, on average, \$14,000 a year to treat a child wounded by gunfire. And that's enough to pay for one of those children's tuition to one of Nebraska's private institutions. The American College of Physicians estimates that in the aggregate the direct cost of firearms injures more than four...the cost is more than 4 billion, billion, dollars a year, with \$19 billion in added cost for harm and lost earnings. You know, I stand and protect the gun rights of Nebraskans.

SENATOR HARTNETT PRESIDING

SENATOR HARTNETT: One minute.

SENATOR MINES: And I allow...but I don't condone allowing virtually anyone to carry a loaded pistol on their person, under their clothes, or in the glove compartment of their car. So I support the amendment. I support Senator Chambers' amendment, but I will vote in opposition to this bill, and return the remainder of my time to the Chair.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Thank you, Senator Mines. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Quandahl, followed by Thompson, Combs, Erdman, Schimek, Cudaback, and Smith. Senator Quandahl.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I, too, haven't had a chance yet to weigh in on LB 265, and so before I begin let's make it clear I'm a supporter of LB 265. I plan to vote for cloture when that motion comes up, which I understand may be later on today, and I also plan to vote on advancement of the bill. And one of the things that I wanted to address when I get up to speak about this is the opportunity that we have before us here today. It's not too often that we have the opportunity in this Legislature to actually give the citizens of Nebraska more freedom than they have today. One of the folks back in my law office in Omaha happens to be one of the very few registered Libertarians in the state of Nebraska. Whenever I go back to the office, he's always pounding on me--hey, Quandahl, you know, what rights are you taking away from me today? And it seems like too often when