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LB 265

we're in here in the Legislature we're constantly criminalizing behavior. We're constantly telling the citizens of Nebraska what they can't do--you can't do this, you can't do that. Well, here's an opportunity to roll that back to actually give our citizens more freedom than they had before. LB 265 would simply allow our citizens, would grant them more freedom, more liberty to protect their lives, protect their families as they see fit. It simply decriminalizes the carrying of a concealed weapon in the state of Nebraska. Now, it does that only if certain conditions are met. I mean, you've got to have good eyesight; you got to take a test; you got to pass some other conditions. And so I believe that the concerns that I've heard so far about safety would be addressed, because it's not everybody that's going to be allowed to carry a concealed weapon in the state of Nebraska. You're going to have to meet certain requirements to actually carry a concealed handgun in the state of Nebraska when LB 265 passes on Final Reading. One of the things that I wanted to talk about also would be to dispel some myths. I saw in the paper that there was...and also heard here on the floor that there's a fear that we would return to the Wild West. Well, let me tell you something. There never really was a Wild West. The Wild West that we all think about is a fabrication from Hollywood, and so there isn't any danger of returning to the Wild West. Another myth that I'd like to try to dispel with some facts are there were quite a few speakers talking about safety of children, safety of young people, and that's something that I'm concerned about too, because I was a young person. I was a child once in the state of Nebraska, and I have children. But when I look at the statistics from our own government, from the Center for Disease Control about what actually causes the deaths of people in the United States, when you look at for the year 2000, Senator Erdman told us that .8 percent, less than 1 percent, of the accidental deaths in the year 2000 were caused by firearms, when up at the top, 42.9 percent, 43 percent of the accidental deaths were caused by motor vehicles. If we're truly concerned about the safety of our citizens, we should be concerned about trying to make our cars and our roads safer rather than worrying about something like this. We talk about children. When we look at children also, children in the year 2000,...