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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 265

ahold of something that they shouldn't have. We have individuals in our country today who are licensed professionals, who go to school for a number of years, and commit more accidents that result in death than probably any other industry. And I've had a chance, I know that Senator Chambers brought up the comment in regards to the number of deaths of people and guns by the perspective of a doctor. And that was Senator Johnson who was sharing that information with Senator Chambers. In reality, the number of deaths total, that I think Senator Hartnett pointed out, that there were 11,000 gun deaths, according to his number. Some other numbers would be as high as 25, 30 thousand of deaths, all deaths relating to gun accidents or gun crimes, whatever you want to call them, total. According to a study done by the Institute of Medicine in 1998, I believe it was, and released in '99, that even comparing that to the number of accidental deaths that occur in our hospitals is low because between 44,000 and 98,000 deaths occur every year, and that is an estimate, depending on the numbers and the reports that you study. But according to the Institute of Medicine, there's up to 98,000 Americans killed every year by medical errors. And here we're talking about total deaths, both malicious, harmful, and accidental, totalling less than 25,000. We could have a discussion about that, and I think rightfully so. But, you see, the debate here isn't about somehow if we don't pass this law we're going to be safer as a society, if you hate guns, because if you hate guns, the Second Amendment is going to cause you problems no matter what. And so from the standpoint of what we're asking here, LB 265 simply does something I think should be supported by the body and that it says if you're carrying a gun, you've got a permit, you've met the background checks. I have had a chance also to talk with law enforcement, as Senator Mossey has. Some are in favor, some are opposed. It comes down to a judgment decision on the law of the land. That's what we're elected to do, but when you get down to it, when we're talking about what it is that we're asking for, we're asking for a couple of things. One, right now you're guilty until proven innocent. Now I don't know of any other place in statute where that is true, and I am sure that maybe Senator Chambers or Senator Brashear could point me to a place in statute where you are guilty until proven innocent because I don't know of one. So I think that's a fallacy or an