

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 1, 2003            LB 265

purpose is to improve the legislation and let it reach that high standard we think we ought to reach. Isn't that true?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: That's true. And that's why I said that I didn't think it was wrong to add it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers and Senator Brashear. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I guess when I spoke on this issue this morning, I guess my concern about having more guns, as it affects children. And I guess there has been some studies. And it was... I'm getting information from a VPC backgrounder on guns in France. And it talks about the... France has a lot of guns and so forth. But I'm concerned... and we hear from the proponents of this bill that, oh, we're just talking about a short, small number. But I think the small number makes a big difference. And quoting from this paper, "The direct link between firearm availability and gun death was confirmed last month in a Harvard School of Public Health study published in The Journal of Trauma analyzing gun death among American children. The study showed that children living in the five states with the highest levels of gun ownership were 16 times more likely to die from unintentional firearm injury, seven times more likely to die from firearm suicide, and three times more likely to die from firearm homicide than children in the five states with the lowest levels of gun ownership." I don't know where we fit with the gun ownership and so forth. But that's... I guess, that's where I'm concerned. And I think with more guns, I think, even though they're well meaning, with honest people, I think it will be... cause more deaths. So... and with that, I would end my... part of my five minutes, and turn the rest over to Senator Chambers if he would so like... so desire.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Chambers, you have three minutes and 20 seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you,