

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 265

concealed weapons. I recently heard an Omaha radio station interview you because you are the senator sponsoring the concealed weapons permit bill. Thank you for bringing this debate to our state. I support the carrying of concealed weapons. If the law passes, I would apply for a permit. I know that a concealed weapon permit law would be a deterrent to crime. I'm sure you're very aware of the statistics from other states involving the reduction of violent crime when responsible, lawful citizens are allowed to carry weapons. I live in Weeping...I have lived in Weeping Water for four and a half years. In that time, I have had two episodes of breaking and entering, vandalism done against my home, family, and the church that I pastor. One of those crimes involved someone entering my residence and discharging over 40 .22 rounds into my house, furniture and electronic equipment. This damage cost \$40,000 in damage...this vandal caused \$40,000 in damage to my property and possessions. The crime happened in the middle of the day. My wife came home shortly after the vandal left. I shudder to think what might have happened had she returned earlier. Unfortunately, crimes like this are not uncommon, as well it is unfortunate that our rural community, like many Nebraska communities, could not have consistent...does not have consistent policing. After calling 911, it took 20 minutes for a Cass County deputy to arrive at our home.

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR TYSON: Fortunately, the criminal was gone, but if he hadn't been, that 20 minutes would have made all the difference between life and death. For two weeks the vandal sent harassing and taunting letters to our home. The local sheriff's department thought it would be a good...it would be best to leave our home for two weeks until things settled down. Even although that is two years in the past, I am thoughtful of that episode every time we open the door. I support the carrying of concealed weapons, and thank you for bringing this important debate to the Legislature. Then there's some others, thank you for your time, Reverend Roger Walterhouse, Weeping Water, Nebraska. He very well spells out the necessary deficiency in law enforcement, especially in rural counties. They can't be everywhere. We don't have that many police. Now,...