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LB 265

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR TYSON: ...Senator...thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of the Chambers motion to return this bill to committee. I do this on philosophical grounds, but also on practical political grounds, because I question whether there are 33 votes to bring cloture on this bill at any time in the near future or at all, actually, and I'm thinking that maybe we are spinning our wheels and wasting some time here by continuing this discussion. I am philosophically opposed to the bill for many, many reasons, but I don't believe that I'm unrepresentative of most of the people in this state. I'm having passed around to you, and I don't have it in my hands right now, but a recent e-mail survey that the Omaha World-Herald did on this particular issue, and it was overwhelmingly, I believe, in opposition to the passage of this particular bill. And I don't remember the exact statistics, but I think it was about 63 percent of the people who wrote in on that survey were opposed, and there were over 4,000 or 5,000 people who actually wrote in. So I don't think that the majority of people in this state are interested in having more guns in our society and, in fact, some of the people that I'm hearing from are very, very fearful for our children. Yesterday, was it, in Pennsylvania there was just another school shooting. And I'm not suggesting that handguns, concealed handguns, are necessarily going to add to that, but there will be more guns in our society. What we should be worried about more than anything is having the guns that are there kept under lock and key with safety mechanisms to keep guns from being accidentally discharged by children. I have, in my lifetime, known of three particular incidences in which young people were killed because they were able to get ahold of a gun that was in either their own home or a neighbor's home, and I...it is a very, very tragic kind of situation. Having even more guns, handguns in particular, available to children I think would be a very dangerous thing for our society. I received an e-mail from