

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

April 28, 2003      LB 265

the information to be able to make. The letter from the Police Chiefs Association cites the flaws in the criminal history record checks. The Sheriffs Association cites the concerns about having to determine mental illness or mentally...mental illness issues for a person when a lot of that isn't recorded. And the general ways that those are approached are to ask the person to voluntarily commit, at which point they are not in record anywhere. And we also talked about what's happened in other states with shall issue permits and who they've been issued to in the shall issue states. And how many have been revoked for crimes of violence, for crimes against children, and we don't have any way to assure in a shall issue state that that's not going to happen. So the reality is, it is. With shall issue, we are going to have concealed weapons held by persons who are going to commit the same kind of crimes, that they've been revoked in other states, and that the arrest data also shows. And the arrest data is what is used because that is what is required to be kept in that particular state. I think we should listen to the suggestions that have been made by people who deal with deadly force issues every day. Their suggestion to the public is, use pepper spray. You might end up killing someone, hurting an innocent person, and you're not going to be exempt from the laws of the state if you do that. You will be held accountable. And we know people make decisions in haste and in the heat of the moment, and being able to be accurate with a limited amount of training is very...a big challenge. And another innocent person could be harmed. It's interesting to note who carries in this...concealed in the shall issue states, and the argument is made, well, it's because they need to defend themselves against crime. And, actually, it's white male, middle-aged males who are the most likely to carry and they are also the least likely to be a crime victim. And the research bears that out. We also know that the more guns we have in our population, the more chances there are for children and teenagers to get access to those guns no matter how much you tell them not to. People don't keep their ammunition and their guns separate. They don't keep locks on them. If they are carrying concealed, we don't have any assurance that they are going to be any safer than if they are in their homes. And we already know what happens in our state with kids who get access to guns and you can pick up the newspaper every month or so and