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woman was murdered by a spouse, intimate acquaintance, or a close relative showed that having one or more guns in the house made a woman 7.2 times more likely to be the victim of a homicide. Last year, 24 percent of the clients of the domestic violence coalition had weapons used on them in a domestic violence situation. Of those situations, guns were used 25 percent of the time. This means that last year 345 women across our state were threatened, beaten or shot by a gun held by the significant other in their lives; 87 percent of children who came into shelter with their mothers witnessed the violence and are, therefore, in harm's way. More guns allowed in the home in any fashion will increase the use of them in domestic violence situations and increase the likelihood that women and children will be killed. We understand, she goes on to say, that this bill attempts to prohibit previously convicted perpetrators of violent crimes from obtaining a permit. The federal government has also recognized how dangerous weapons are in domestic violence situations. In 1994, amendments to the Gun Control Act, the amendments to that act prohibit anyone who has been convicted of a misdemeanor domestic violence crime from carrying a weapon. Also persons with protection orders against them are not allowed to possess firearms. Unfortunately, we know that many batterers have no criminal record. We know that when a victim chooses to leave the batterer, the violence often escalates. It is simply not in the best interest of public safety to allow a batterer to chase after an escaping victim and her children with a legal and concealed handgun. We believe that more gun control is needed in this country, not less,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...and certainly not new laws that allow handguns to be concealed. Our second myth is the perpetration of the myth that concealed weapons will somehow protect women. This is what Senator Hartnett was talking about. We must point out that for each time a woman used a handgun in 1998 to kill an intimate acquaintance in self-defense, 97 women were murdered by an intimate acquaintance using a handgun. The myth that strangers who hide in dark alleys are women's greatest threat is simply untrue. More than 12 times as many females were murdered by a male they knew, 1,699 victims, than were killed by male