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FLOOR DEBATE

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with guns, and again this is from the John Hopkins Center, in homes with guns, the homicide of a household member is three times more likely to occur than in homes without guns. The risk of suicide of a family member is increased by approximately five times in homes with guns. And I think what our fundamental question here is, is shall we remain a state with an affirmative defense, or shall we become a shall issue state? And you've heard, as Senator Mines said, the problems that continue to exist with this bill as identified by the Sheriffs Association, and that is, if you are a shall issue state, you have decisions that have to be made, that the sheriff will have no way of knowing and may have a way of knowing and won't be able to carry it out. And that's happened in other states, and the next time I talk, I'll present some information on that, because of the way records are kept and because of limitations that are placed upon what they could do legally to deny a person who may or may not have a record that they can point to when it comes to those issues identified in this bill dealing with mental illness, a history of violence, and so forth. And I think we need to think carefully about whether we want to have not our entire society have more and more people carrying guns concealed, as the cartoon that Senator Hartnett said, for two reasons; one, because of the problems for law enforcement, and for the problems of common citizens who now won't know who might be walking around in larger numbers than we certainly have now with a handgun. And their safety is in question because of accidents, because of hot tempers, because of other things that can happen, and they should just carry pepper spray. It will be just as...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...effective, as the police chiefs have reported to us. But when you have more guns in your society, you're going to be issuing more guns to people who shouldn't be carrying them and might be more willing to use them than others in general. And those are the ones that I've talked to you about from Utah, the statistics from Utah and from Texas. They are felony convictions that happened to people who were carrying concealed but also people that they didn't know because the information was inaccurate or in..unavailable that they