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LB 454

granted to some 6 million of our other fellow Americans, and no good reason for our state to continue to deny it. Allow me to list and respond to some of the common objections to this type of statute. Number one: Firearm accidents will increase. This most frequently cited objection simply is not true in any sense. Accidental firearm accidents in the United States have steadily decreased since the mid-seventies, a period during which over 20 states have instituted right-to-carry laws. Obviously, if properly issued concealed carry permits did cause an increase in accidents, this steady and welcome decrease could never have occurred. Number two: Law enforcement personnel will be placed in danger. Again, this allegation simply does not square with the facts. Of the millions of individuals granted concealed carry permits over the past three decades, there has been no instance of a permit holder assaulting a law enforcement officer with a concealed weapon. Glenn White, president of the Dallas Police Association, initially opposed concealed carry in Texas. He felt that such legislation presented a clear and present danger to law-abiding citizens by placing more handguns on our streets. What did he learn after the bill passed? I'll quote him directly. Mr. White stated, "Our experience in Harris County, and indeed statewide, has proven my initial fears absolutely groundless. All the horror stories that I thought would come to pass did not happen. I think it's worked out well, and that says good things about the citizens who have permits. I am a convert." I want to repeat. Mr. White said, "All the horror stories that I thought would come to pass did not." The people of the great state of Nebraska deserve no less than the citizens of Texas and the other 46 states that offer permits to carry concealed. Number three: Individuals carrying handguns pursuant to a legally issued permit will assault other citizens with those weapons in a fit of rage. Once again, the facts of the matter simply do not bear this out. It does not happen in states which issue the permits, and no state which has passed a concealed carry law has ever rescinded that statute. I have just stated three things that won't happen if LB 454 is enacted. Now here are some things that will happen, based on evidence from other states with concealed carry statutes. First of all, persons who choose to carry a concealed handgun will be properly instructed, not only in gun safety and handling, but also in the legal aspects and responsibilities that accompany