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LB 454

the supporters of LB 454 are paranoid. I would suggest that opponents to LB 454 are paranoid, just to use Senator Chambers' own words. And with all due respect, I have an immense respect for firearms, immense respect. That doesn't mean I'm afraid of them. There's a time and there's a place for the appropriate application. Most of it is recreational, and a slim amount of time they are for self-defense. It's not often, but at such time that it is necessary, it's highly necessary, and that is why I support LB 454. I know Senator Schimek suggested that most Nebraskans don't favor this. I would say that is consistent among her district. I would say that across Nebraska there's a great amount of support for LB 454, and I'm not sure if Senator Schimek would prefer to put this to a vote of the people, but I think it's our job to take this up, and I'm willing to do that. But I support LB 454 for several reasons, one of those mostly being that we should not have policies relating to individuals, where we presume they're guilty. Our current policy relating to firearms and concealed weapons is that we presume that they're going to use them inappropriately and kill someone, and behave in a violent manner. That's unfair to law-abiding Nebraskans. Senator Thompson, I appreciate her confidence, when she mentioned that she is comfortable knowing who all is carrying a weapon, because she can see it. Now there are a vast number of criminals out there who are going to conceal. We're heard about that already. I don't believe that our current policy enables each and every one of us to know who is carrying a weapon. When I look across America and I see the most highly regulated political subdivisions relating to guns--our most highly regulated environments when it comes to guns--and crime is highest? The more we restrict guns, the higher the crime rate, a la Washington, D.C. That concerns me a great deal. There are a vast number of Nebraskans who support this. I've supported this from the beginning of my political career, and it's not a newfound topic for any one of us, I don't think. But we can very comfortably provide to many Nebraskans, thousands of Nebraskans, the ability to go through training, obtain that permit. We're going to have a more highly trained public when it comes to firearms. To me, that's healthy--a more highly trained public when it comes to the use of an otherwise inanimate object. But that training can provide immense public policy assurances, if you will. But we cannot assume that guns