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LB 454

pull their own triggers. We cannot assume that every person carrying a gun is going to use it in a negative aspect. That's paranoia. A Nebraskan wanting to go through training, pay a fee--a rather hefty fee, I would expect--but going through the training, going through a background check, so that they can be able to carry a concealed weapon without further government regulation than that, that's already enough, more than enough, in my opinion. But I'm willing to live with it. Let's enable these Nebraskans to do this, because in the end we'll all be better off and we can have, I believe, a safer society, because I'm not afraid of an inanimate object. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. On with discussion. Senator Combs, followed by Senator Redfield.

SENATOR COMBS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I don't see Senator Johnson on the floor, but just...I hope he takes this in...I'm just being light, but I am checking to be sure I am a white female that brought this bill, not just white males. So, there are a lot of white females, sports women--I just went to Izaak Walton League with them the other night--there are a lot of women that want this, also, and not just white, but also people of color are included in those who are in favor of LB 454. I wanted to talk a little bit about...Senator Thompson had mentioned some statistics, and a lot of it, you know, depends on how you ask the question. I have the results of a Zogby poll that was done in December of 2003, and it was also a poll that had included various issues. One of the questions asked was: Currently 36 states have passed laws that allow residents to qualify for a permit to carry a firearm to protect themselves if they pass a background check, if they participate in firearms training, and pay a fee to cover the administrative costs. Do you feel this is a good law or a bad law? Which is actually much more representative of what's actually being presented, as opposed to, do you want to be around people, you know, carrying concealed? Well, this is more representative of who these people are. And the results of the poll were up significantly from 2001: 81 percent supported that, and only 19 percent opposed it, and the margin of error on that was minus...plus or minus 2.9 percent. So, you know, a lot