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amendment. Issuance of the permit would be contingent not only upon completion of the safety course, but also successfully undergoing a rigorous background check, which does include domestic violence. In addition, LB 454 sets out conditions under which the permit, once issued, can be revoked. Despite our best intentions, we are not operating in a vacuum here in Nebraska. Forty-six other states have some sort of legal provision for citizens to carry concealed handguns, with 38 other states having laws quite similar to the one proposed here in Nebraska in LB 454. Wisconsin has passed a similar bill through both houses of its legislature, and members are waiting for a concurring vote there. Delaware is trying to move from a "may" to a "shall" position this year, and Kansas is moving on right to carry there, as well. There is every good reason for Nebraskans to enjoy a right presently granted to some 6 million of our fellow Americans--I believe now it's 6.5 million permitholders--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. 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 caused 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 permitholder 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 in his state? 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 I thought would come to pass didn't happen....I think it's worked out well, and that says good things about the citizens who have permits. I'm a