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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I am trying to understand how this would be a deterrent to crime, and I really can't figure that out. Several have said that. It certainly would not, in the judgment of the people in my neighborhood, be a deterrent to crime. It would be an increase in crime, and in loss of life within some of our homes. I have here the figures of the type of crime that our inmates in our prison...in our state prison system, and only one out of eight of those offenses could have involved a gun, and some of them did not. But one out of eight would be the top number of it. I have two friends that caused me to think more about this legislation. I have to say, I don't have heartburn about what happens, because I think mainly we're in an exercise of fund-raising for a national organization. One of these friends carries a concealed weapon. He's been assured by local police that this is not a problem. And he's worried about this bill as a problem, because he's, as Senator Loudon has recognized, is going to have to come up with \$100, and he's going to get investigated and fingerprinted and on a national registration, where he does not want to be. So maybe that's where we're trying to reduce crime, though I think his reasons for carrying a concealed weapon are valid, and evidently the police do, too. The other friend is a person who was attacked by four people. He carried a concealed weapon because he was a person of small stature in a kind of a tough neighborhood, and he was worried about it. So he had a reason to carry, he felt. These four men came at him, all of them larger than he, with firearms and so on, and they were going to do him damage. He pulled out his gun and shot one of them, trying to injure the man. The man died. My friend spent six years in the State Penitentiary, though this was clearly self-defense, clearly self-defense. No issue of the concealed carry was brought into the trial. But he had a lot of long thoughts during six years in the State Penitentiary, wishing that he did not carry a gun. His situation makes me anxious for persons who will hear of this law and decide that maybe it's time for them to start carrying a gun. He didn't intend to hurt anybody, but because he had it on him in a panicky situation, and he was in a panicky situation, where he was going to be injured, he decided to use it. I'm sure there's quite a bit of assumption on the floor that if he's in that