

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 11, 2006 LB 454

kinds of decisions, if they use pepper spray, they'd be just as safe. They could disarm another person they're afraid of, and they wouldn't have to face knowing that they may have killed or harmed an innocent person by mistake. In our community, you've all read the...the part of the state I live in, there was a really tragic incident a couple weeks ago in Council Bluffs where a victim was shot. And it's all under investigation and whatever. But you know, we've got people who have tremendous amount of training, have to make split-second decisions. And I don't think good public policy is to become a shall issue state, a shall issue state, because a small part of the population wants to carry guns hidden. They can carry the guns unhidden, and then the rest of us know if we don't want to be around this dangerous thing. And I don't think anybody here, whether they would call it...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...an object or whatever, argues the fact that this is a deadly weapon, and it's a handgun. Senator Pedersen said he grew up in South Dakota, he grew up around guns, he grew up with hunting. Well, I grew up in South Dakota. My dad was a hunter. I...you know, this isn't what this bill is about. This is about a handgun, whose only purpose is to kill somebody, or injure them, or...and so why don't we hold off from having to be pushed by a national organization that has a whole lot of agendas, pushing a few people in our districts to push us to do something that's not right for the majority of citizens, who should just buy pepper spray instead. This is not good public policy. There are lots of problems with the bill. We're probably not even going to get to amend all of those. But I will be offering an amendment on this section on mentally ill dangerous persons, more for the protection of liability of the state, because this has been shifted now to the state, and we don't have databases...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Time, Senator.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...and ways to do this. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Stuhr, followed by Senator Price,