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FLOOR DEBATE

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of gun control laws and lower suicide rates by firearms, and overall...and overall, although some studies fail to show an effect or show method substitution. A prospective study shows that handgun...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...purchasers have an elevated risk of suicide for up to six years after the purchase. And one final study, again by Miller, major finding reported in a 2002 issue of Epidemiology says the authors analyzed the relationship between firearm availability and suicide across 50 states over a ten-year period. After controlling for poverty and urbanization, for every age group across the United States, people in states with many guns have elevated rates of suicide, particularly, particularly firearm suicide. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, I think this has been one of our quiet and thoughtful debates. This is a...we've risen to a good level here and it's without rancor, which I appreciate. For one thing, it seems to me that over time we've acknowledged at least a couple of ways in which the early blush of rhetorical excess has been proven not to be true. One, from my side, people that are critics of concealed carry gun legislation, it has not produced a rash of gun injuries, it has not produced a rash of wild, irresponsible gun usage. We don't have tales of injured policemen. We don't have tales of shootouts in bars. And believe me, my side, if those stories existed, would know them and we'd distribute them and we'd hear about them. It's also, I think, the case that over time the inflated and inaccurate claims that the concealed carry laws produced lower crime rates have died away, stopped saying that, because it isn't true. Nebraska is one of the safest, and we don't have this law. In fact, crime rates for all states went down. It was not the case that only states with the concealed carry laws went down and others did not. And while that appears in some of the rhetoric that you find in the web sites and some of the written language,