

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 454

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, all we're doing is taking time. All I'm doing is taking time. I started to make this rhyme, but I changed my mind, because it might seem like I'm not serious. But anyway, this is some improvement that I have to make in my own amendment, page 2, line 2; page 2, line 8, strike...oh, page 1, line 2, page 2, line 8, strike the word "pistols" and insert "firearms." Page 2, lines 13 and 26, and page 3, line 18, strike "pistols" and insert "firearm." On the chance, the outside chance that Senator Combs may agree that this amendment should be adopted, I want it to be in the proper form, and I'm looking at my amendment in the time that I've had available, because the bill came up a little sooner than I expected. I'm making corrections in the language in my amendment, also. "Pistols" is not the term that ought to be used. "Firearms" is the term, because I believe this bill has in its title...oh, it says "concealed handgun permit." So maybe it should have been handgun. But firearm certainly is more suitable than pistol or pistols. So I am offering this amendment to my amendment, and I believe it's clear enough to be understood by everybody. I didn't have the opportunity to copy and hand out this letter that was sent to me by the mayor of Omaha, but if we're on the bill beyond today, then there will be that opportunity. It's dated February 13, but I held it until this bill came up for debate. Dear Senator Chambers, I write in opposition to LB 454, which would permit citizens to carry a concealable handgun. The mayor of Omaha, by the way, is Mike Fahey. I don't know if I gave his name. In an urban area like Omaha, a significant number of crimes are committed with guns. In 2005 alone, a total of 514 robberies, aggravated assaults, and destruction of property crimes using guns were reported. I believe LB 454 would be detrimental to the public safety, and I respectfully request that you oppose it. Sincerely, Mike Fahey, Mayor, city of Omaha. Without Mayor Fahey's request that I oppose this bill, I intended to oppose it, as I have done down through the years, and I shall continue to do so, but I'm glad that the mayor saw fit to put in writing his opposition. And he knows that I will distribute this letter at some point, should it be necessary. I don't know whether many members take the Lincoln Journal Star, but Friday, March 3, they had an article on the