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LB 454

means of defending themselves. You know, crime rates don't really mean a lot to someone until you become a victim of crime. Then it doesn't matter what the crime rate is where you live. You are the victim. That figure includes...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR COMBS: ...40 murders and nonnegligent manslaughters, 620 forcible rapes, 1,138 robberies, 3,595 aggravated assaults. These FBI numbers represent real people, Nebraskans who have been victimized by violent criminals who do not ask for the state's permission to carry firearms. Would LB 454 have prevented all or even most of these crimes had it taken effect two to three years ago? No, we can't say that it would have, but surely it could have stopped possibly a few of them, and we owe it to our citizens to do everything that we can to allow them to lawfully protect themselves. Remember again, this is...what we are setting in place is a system for law-abiding citizens to protect themselves. They will be taught all the proper ways of handling. Just like the 46 other states that have concealed carry, there's training that must be done. These people that are carrying right now in cities all over Nebraska are not trained. They have not been fingerprinted...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR COMBS: ...and they are not trained. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Combs. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. It's interesting, relating to this letter from Mayor Seng again and her desire to affect state policy by using her position as mayor. And certainly she's entitled to do that. She has that prerogative, and she certainly has the prerogative to request and/or demand, I don't know what the case is...and, in all fairness, I don't know what the case is of how she approached the police chief, Mr. Casady, whether or not to sign the letter. He is a subordinate of hers and so that should be noted. And people at all levels of government oftentimes leverage their position or their status to try to effectuate public policy.