

new language dealing in the areas where individuals are likely to be present, the more serious and frequent offenses such as drug possession, citations in lieu of arrest, and traffic infractions. To illustrate why I believe that we need to talk about this, I'd like to tell a story, and I think it's a story that says something about the necessity of police officers to be able to identify people who are involved in criminal activity. Two years ago I did a ride-along with the police. We were barely out of the police station when we saw some people involved in a drug buy. The individual on foot ran from the scene. And the car was stopped and the police officers ran the plate and got the name of the person who, whose car it was, and then went to the car. And we all know how serious even these traffic infractions or some of the things that we talk about in terms of citations, can be. The police went to the car and asked the woman who was driving for her driver's license. And she spent about two minutes fiddling in her purse and it became clear that she did not have a driver's license. She said that the individual that was riding in the car with her had lost their license, it had been revoked, and so therefore she was driving. So she fiddled some more in her purse and finally pulled out her Montgomery Ward's charge card and gave it to the police officer as her form of identification. So I guess in the absence of an official state of Nebraska driver's license we could use the official Montgomery Ward's charge card. This was a true story. But the hypothetical part of it, I think, is important. If the law enforcement officer in this case had run the plate of the car and the name was different than the name that was on the Montgomery Ward's charge card, and he had wanted to find some way to identify this person, ask for more information, and that more information had included asking for the Social Security number in this case, he would have been breaking the law. We have turned it around from the person who was involved, very possibly, in a drug buy being the lawbreaker to the person trying to do their job, the law enforcement official, being the lawbreaker. Now I'm not blindly and unquestionably pro law enforcement. I have strong negative feelings about policemen's conduct and believe in things like citizens' review and community policing, but I do not believe in hamstringing law enforcement and making law enforcement, in the course of their regular business, in the course of their doing their job to protect us, making them the lawbreakers. In the case of this bill we would be making misconduct out of an officer just trying to do their job. So I believe that we