

doesn't get inserted into 16 with its priority status, the issue is dead. I'm going to talk just about two or three minutes on what the issue is and I don't think anybody should try to make it more than it is or cloud the issue. It is simply to ensure that there is a guarantee at the state level for the rights of law abiding citizens to own and use firearms for legitimate purposes, that that right cannot be infringed upon by any other level of government be it city or county or whatever. It does stem, of course, from the thing back in Morton Grove, Illinois, where they passed an ordinance that did, in fact, control handguns. It moved through the court system in the State of Illinois. It stopped at the state level when their State Supreme Court said that the City of Morton Grove, in fact, had the right to do that. It has concerned a lot of people and the issue has been placed on ballots in I think 40 other states and passed in 40 other states and it is to be on the ballot, I believe, this fall in four or five more states and a great many people want this opportunity in Nebraska to vote on this issue and I would pass along to you there are 22,000 NRA members in this state that feel very strongly about it and I think you've heard from some of them. Senator Wesely raised the question in the committee hearing that said, do we really need this? Is there any move in Nebraska to come up with any sort of gun control at the local levels? And Mr. Ted Lattanzio of the NRA that testified in the hearing gave this response to Senator Wesely. He said I wish I could give you a definitive yes on that, that is that there is no need for this. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Since the courts ruled in the Illinois cases, we have had localities and jurisdictions in states such as Wyoming, areas in the State of Colorado, excluding the Denver suburbs, in Iowa, we have had them in Missouri who have attempted to do exactly what we are trying to prevent here with this amendment. I am not lawyer enough to understand all the amenities of this but part of the Eighth Amendment has been negated, parts of it has. For example, Mr. Lattanzio told us our right to bail was negated because of a court case that occurred here in Nebraska just last year. It is a federal guarantee now but it is no longer a state guarantee. It does not enter into the area at all of saying that you can carry a concealed weapon or any such thing, any other regulations that you have that you can't have guns in courts, or what have you, courts of law, but I wanted to just say again, this is what the issue is, is to put before the voters this fall the opportunity to insert in the State Constitution the right to keep and bear arms for legitimate purposes, and before we kill the entire 30 minutes here, which I think some of you are probably