

amount of police officers only, they aren't where they're assigned. As Senator Ashford spoke, he's in the middle of the city, and he was concerned, his people talked to him. Well, my people talk to me about safety, too. And they don't talk about when a police officer responds to a call they say, stop, wait a minute, how many years of experience do you have before you respond to this call. All they want is a police officer there when they need them. Our problems are drugs, our problems are gangs, robberies, we do have serious problems, but it's not because the police officers aren't there. Senator Chambers has not said once that it's because the police officers aren't there, they are there. They can pull them out of any part of the city. The two officers that responded in the Scott Baldwin case were the only two officers that could respond at that time. If everyone, every officer in the northeast quadrant is busy, they can pull the nearest officer out of any other place in the city to respond to a call in the northeast area. It's not like you have walls up where we can't mix in the City of Omaha. There's plenty of reason to believe that the equitable distribution of officers is right where it should be. I have, if you're talking about responses from police officers, I have them right here. I've talked to many of them in person and I've talked to many of them on the phone. I don't know if they haven't written you, Senator Chambers, because maybe they weren't sure what your response would be. But they have written to me, asking me to please try to kill this bill, that's what I'm doing. I'm responding to what people in my area have asked me to do. The southwest part of Omaha needs as many officers as any other area in Omaha. If you really think about this, I know they keep trying to turn it from safety, but have any of you received any information from anyone in the City of Omaha telling you that the reason their area is not safe is because they don't have enough police officers, or because of their response time? If you talk to people in those areas with more police officers, I don't think that's what you're going to hear. They're going to tell you the safety issues are drugs, gangs, those type of things that the police officers are there to respond to, not necessarily that their presence would stop that, but...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...more officers would be able to help in those situations.