

Legislature. For example, a gun control measure. Nebraska has its own gun control bill now, so no matter what the federal government passes in the area of gun control we will have, in Nebraska, a solution to the problem. That's part of the federal crime bill. We've already done that. We debated that for three years, and it was passed, and we've got a system here that, in many respects, I think is better than the Brady bill that's going through Congress. So we've already done that. Now we have prison reform, which is another piece of the puzzle that is being debated and has not been resolved on the federal level. And I hope that we can pass this prison reform legislation this year, because then we'll have the gun control piece, we'll have the prison reform piece, two of the real important pieces of federal...of the federal legislation. And then the piece that Senator Witek and...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...the Attorney General are most concerned about, which is the appeal process and some of the other uniform sentencing or whatever it is can be addressed in the next session. So, quite frankly, rather than be down on ourselves for maybe not doing the whole loaf, we've done maybe three-quarters or half a loaf so far. And I think we should be, quite frankly, happy with ourselves for that, because we're far ahead of where the federal Congress is. And, again, I think Senator Abboud took on a tremendous responsibility when he brought this bill here, especially knowing that the Attorney General was going to be pushing him from the outside, and that's tough to do. And he's been able to chart a course, and I think we should stand behind Senator Abboud on this, it's his bill. He remains steady on it. We've got a good, solid prison reform package that's supported by 93 percent of my district, and I intend to vote for it and to hopefully vote for it this year, and to strongly resist the bracket motion, because prison reform, in looking at our budget there is no more important issue than prison reform that I can see.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR ASHFORD: It will have a dramatic impact on our budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Senator Abboud.