

March 6, 2021

Senator Steve Lathrop, Chair, and  
Members of the Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

RE: LB 404 (Lowe) Change permit and renewal time periods under Concealed Handgun Permit Act

**Oppose**

Dear Senator Lathrop and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education and annual license renewal. Periodic renewal of gun licenses can reduce crimes by helping law enforcement confirm that a gun owner remains eligible to possess firearms. Laws requiring a person to obtain a license from local law enforcement before buying a gun have a strong approval rating: 77% of all Americans, including 68% of current gun owners. We all want to be confident that those carrying firearms are responsible, lawful and capable.

Very few states have such long periods in between renewals, only Oklahoma and Illinois. In places with stronger licensing laws, criminals typically acquire guns that originate from states with weaker laws. Nebraska borders six states, all of which have permit renewals that range from one to five years. If we loosen our requirements, we become that weak link for South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming. This bill has the power to affect gun safety far beyond our state.

Changing Nebraska's gun permit renewal period from five years to ten years is moving in the wrong direction for safer gun ownership. A lot can change in an individual's life over the course of ten years. Re-running a background check a bit more often can help law enforcement protect the public by confirming that those possessing firearms continue to be good stewards of this responsibility.

Please do not advance LB 404 further. Thank you for considering our position and for all you do for Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Sara Lee, Social Policy Committee LWNNE  
Carol Dennison, Social Policy Director LWNNE  
Dianne Bystrom, Co-President LWNNE  
Linda Duckworth, Co-President LWNNE