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years in the performance of Native American students. And a lot of that I think can be attributed to the outreach that the Department of Education has initiated. It also has to do with the students themselves and the schools. But I think that everything that we do to help those that really are challenged with so many burdens, I think that it's good for us to move forward and to continue to do this. As I said, it was actually funds that were federal funds but it wasn't a federal program. It was something that we found federal dollars and put it in. Those are gone. And the other two positions are very appropriate also with Hispanic outreach and one for arts that we had in the past and was not filled for a few years. I believe that these four positions are very worthy of this government to continue to have in place to help the students of our state.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Are you through, Senator Connealy?

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Open for discussion. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Don Pederson explained why the Appropriations Committee had not included money for these two positions in their initial submission to the Legislature. It was told to us, and I accepted at face value what Senator Pederson said, that when the Department of Education made a presentation to the committee, they did not do a very good job. No significant emphasis was placed on these two positions. They were not prioritized. And if I'm misstating what Senator Pederson actually said by words, I don't think I'm misrepresenting the thought or the idea that he was offering us as to why the Appropriations Committee had not funded these positions. Senator Connealy offered an amendment to put into the budget 140-something thousand dollars, I believe, which is even lesser an amount than what we agreed to add back through the other override. There was much testimony offered by senators from various districts in support of restoring or providing money for those two positions. Senator Schimek gave much detailed information in the form to some extent of statistics even, of how much assistance these positions had