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regard that we can't continue all of the programs that the federal government has started. I mean, where do you stop? And so that's a very poor justification for saying that we need to pay it now, and we didn't feel that it addressed the issue. We were very skeptical of how this particular program was being carried out in the first place, from information that we'd received. But I think we all recognize there's a problem in regard to the Native Americans. There's...and...but it doesn't help us to identify the fact there is a problem and then say, therefore, we should put money into the program. So I think we were not helped at all by the Department of Education in regard to this particular program, so I just tell you that that's the reason that we did not fund this measure that was presented to us. And we had a number of measures presented and we had to use our best judgment as to...as to what to fund, and we did it with recognition of the fact that there is a big problem in connection with the Native American population, but we've got big problems with a lot of elements of our society. I think it certainly could have been approached better by the Department of Education and the State Board of Education than we should replace it because the federal government has stopped funding it. So with that in mind, we did not fund this particular program. We had great empathy for the program, certainly we had more empathy for the Native Americans, but we did not feel that the proposal that was presented to us gave us justification to fund it. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Haven't heard much from me this year, but this is an issue that I fully support. I wanted to say, as soon as Senator Foley...Connealy got up and was talking about the introduction of the bill, is "haw lila waste kola,"--hello, my very good friends. I was raised on an Indian reservation and have a very soft spot for the Native Americans. They are a different culture that we do not look at as being different anymore, and they still are. All of us have basic needs, whether that need be to be important, to be part of, to be worth something, to be fed, to be sheltered, but we take different