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lines of education. And I have serious concerns...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I've had the good fortune to serve for several years on the Native American Advisory Council that was put together by the state department of education, and Senator Smith, I'd like to share some information with this body that the commissioner wrote to, I believe it was the Appropriations Committee, that tells about these positions and why they're needed, and what they've achieved. Number one, this is the Department of Education's top priority. They think that they've actually achieved some real gains in educational goals on the Indian reservations in the state, and so that...number one is, these positions were their top priority in their request for funding. Secondly, just what do these Native American education consultants do? There are two of them, and they are statewide, and it's a little hard to measure, perhaps, in some of the bigger schools in which there are few numbers of Native American students, but here's what they do, Senator Smith. They provide training and resource sharing to educators in the areas of teaching Native American students, the role of culture in education, how to assess student learning, how to use assessment data to improve teaching and learning, how to create and implement school improvement plans, and what the best practices are. A real important component of it is providing training and resource sharing for parents and community, and how to be engaged in the education of students, and how to establish community support for students on issues like child care, substance abuse, and academic achievement; host an annual symposium for statewide conversations about how to help the...with the educational attainments of Native American students; disseminating information on best practices to educators, boards of education, and parents and patrons; and meeting quarterly with regional advisory councils in the