

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 15, 2006 LB 1060

all of that. They didn't present it to us. How are we to look into their minds and say, well, you know, if you'd had that information, I'll bet you would have said this or that? And so we have to be judging by what we actually hear. We did, and although we had empathy for the problem, we don't think that necessarily because there's a problem that the way you solve a problem is to fund that problem. You have to have a justification presented to you. Our committee frankly did not feel it had been presented adequate information to do that, and for that reason and that reason alone, they determined that we could not fund this particular segment. Is it a worthwhile program? Based upon what we found out, we didn't know. We didn't see any reason for it. But now, perhaps there's some information. Maybe you are convinced of the fact that now you have enough information, more than was presented to us, and that you would like to fund this program. We did not have that information, and for that reason, it's not in our budget.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Don Pederson. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Pederson, thank you, and I came flying in here from the Rotunda and realized that we were on this amendment and got right on this right away. And I should have said that this was a letter that came to the committee after the hearing, because it says it's in response to some of the questions that the committee had. So I wasn't trying to mislead anybody. I can't tell you how strongly I feel that this is a program that works. And Senator Connealy just came over and mentioned to me that this wasn't necessarily a program that was funded deliberately with federal funds from some federal program. But I know that the Commissioner of Education feels strongly about our need to improve the educational attainments of our Native American people, and so he went out and found some federal funds--I think Senator Connealy said from No Child Left Behind--that could be used to do this. Well, now, of course, all those funds have dried up, and so now, of course, he has to