

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

April 5, 2006

LB 1060

the areas out there, especially in the western end of the state. In the district I represent, just in Box Butte, Dodge, and Sheridan County alone, there's over 450 Native American students in those schools out there. This was set up where people worked with these children and were trying to be proactive to bring them forward so that they aren't a problem in the future. And for what small amount of money that is being appropriated for the entire state, when you stop and think the amount of pupils involved, that's probably your best cost ratio we have in education. The Panhandle alone out there in the Nebraska Panhandle, that's counting the Scottsbluff-Gering area and Alliance and Gordon and all those areas out there, there's nearly 1,200 Native American students alone. And these are Native American students that are registered that way. So I certainly support Senator Connealy's bill. It was put into the budget to start with, with a motion by Senator Connealy. I think this is something that we, as far as what we spend on education, is well worth the money that's involved. I agree with Senator Howard when some of the alcohol fetal syndrome money was cut. I think that was probably a mistake there. I think that probably should be restored. But at the present time, I'll certainly support Senator Connealy's amendment to override the veto on this. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President. These are always hard. We're talking about various programs, all of which have some merit to them. That's not exactly what we're talking about today. We're talking now about overriding a veto. Let's see, what did that veto say? The veto message was, I also vetoed the increase of \$318,563 General Fund in FY 2006-2007 for four staff positions in the Department of Education. I have not vetoed the \$196,665 salary limit increase needed for these positions, thereby providing the department the opportunity to review their priorities and to redirect its current federal and state resources to address these staffing decisions. So it's true, as Senator Chambers said, that our committee was not well informed by the Department of Education regarding the needs and the priorities of these particular positions. But that's only a