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connection with these departments. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute. Thank you, Senator Pederson. Sorry I warned you when you already quit. Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Very short. We are all brothers and sisters but we come from many different cultures. And this little bit of money would be used to help understand and work with some cultures that we do not have a whole lot of cohesiveness with. It's the least we can do. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Dwite Pedersen. Senator Thompson, on the motion to override.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I just want to address one of the four positions that hasn't been talked about. And that is the art education person. This was a position where someone retired during the budget crisis and the department shifted those funds from that particular position to pay for other things rather than lay off another person in another area. But the real reason I came to this is because I heard a lecture along with several other members of the Legislature in December on the importance of the arts to brain development and that here in the United States, we've pushed math and science very, very hard and we are now in a very competitive world where creativity is going to play a very important part in our ability to compete internationally. And as an education system, we have to make sure that our children have both right- and left-brain functions. And we tend to be a left-brained school type of curriculum. And the left-brain method...you know, I'm a left-brainer, you know, I clearly am, you know, I'm into logical, sequential, rational, analytical. The right brain is the part that makes us creative and it also helps get a whole-brain development. And it really helps children with school success. Children who have an arts curriculum score better on math and science. They work better with their peers. They're more likely to be successful in school. If you look at at-risk children, having an arts education helps them get in touch with their own sense of self