

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

April 5, 2006

LB 1060

Do you all realize that if you could engage the minds of children and interest them in drawing, writing, painting, and other things that stir their creative juices, they wouldn't get in so much trouble? They would look forward to those classes. They have projects they would want to complete because they can see what they're creating as they create it. And all the teacher or some adult has to do is...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...say, I really like that. And the child is inspired. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Further discussion? Senator Don Pederson, followed by Senator Beutler.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President. As I say, these are hard things to talk about. But I'd like to make a couple points. One is, why are we talking about arts, why are we talking about Hispanic, why are we talking about Native American all in the same proposal? It's because they're all under one bill, one proposal, one department. So you can't separate them, we can't take them one at a time. We have to look at the entire spectrum of all of these programs in this particular discussion. So I think that's important for us to realize. And as I said, there's something in this for everybody. But I'd like to make a point. We were not the ones that decided to cut these programs. The federal government cut these programs. And so they were the ones, Senator Chambers, who determined that this wasn't necessary for whatever reason. And our Department of Education determined that rather than try to reallocate funds within the department, that they would seek additional separate funds from the Legislature. They came to us and I've already described to you the proposals that they made. But the important part is that the Governor has left room within their personal service limitation to fill these positions. He has not provided the additional money for that. He vetoed that particular money and said, you can do it within your department. So I'm not saying it's not important that we have the education of students as far as cultural arts are concerned or that we have concerns for the Native American or that we have concerns for the Hispanic. The