

continue them is made and that is very important. It is symbolic in some degree. It is not adequate in our sense of the word but, nevertheless, at least we get to continue the programs that are very near and dear to people. Now if you think I or many of the people that are supporting this have big constituencies back in our districts, I think you are wrong. There is no real constituencies across this state really for both of these programs and particularly the native Americans and the Mexican-Americans. They are a very small part of our population. I just checked in my own district and I have 71 native Americans and I don't have any Mexican-Americans listed. There is an other category which maybe they are under with 192 people but I have got 33,000 people in my district. So clearly, you know, I am stepping out here speaking for a group that is a very small fraction of a percent of my district but I would hope that my district and your districts and all of the districts that make up this state would recognize that all of us have a right to an equal opportunity and a chance to advance in our society, and that sometimes we have to give a little to help those people because at some time when those talents develop and those abilities emerge, they are going to be able to help us because together we are much stronger than we are separately. So it is clear that I don't...you know, I am not going to suggest people are voting against these because the political implications are clear. They are a very small fraction of the state. I think a lot of you are voting as you do because of your concern with the budget and it is legitimate. I am not going to speak against your desires and your reasoning or anything because I am going to assume that you are all honorable and you are making decisions based on the logic that you can follow. But I am saying to you, you have to understand the other side. That there is a very strong sentiment for many of us that this is the wrong thing to do, this is the wrong message to send, this is the wrong step to take, and it is so wrong that we are willing to stand up here today, the day before we are to adjourn, to say we ought to change that, and if that means extending the session one day, we ought to do that because it so grievous an error and I think we will be paying the penalty for many, many months and years into the future. We don't want to make that error and it is that important to us that we are standing up here. We didn't want to be in the situation, as I said...

SENATOR BARRETT: One minute.