

## IN ARIZONA, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$625.5 MILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 9,700 EDUCATOR JOBS

*The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will save or create nearly 400,000 education jobs through critical investments in the education of our nation's children. Specifically, The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will invest \$30 billion to support state and local efforts to retain, rehire, and hire early childhood, elementary, and secondary educators. Facing a \$1.5 billion projected budget shortfall in 2012, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of Arizona teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide Arizona with an additional \$625.5 million in funds that will support 9,700 education jobs, provide a jolt to the state economy, and improve the quality of education. By asking millionaires to pay their fair share, The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will grow the Arizona economy without adding a dime to the deficit.*

**Arizona Budget Shortfall Forced State To Slash Education Spending by 24 Percent.** As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, Arizona faced a budget shortfall of \$1.5 billion in 2012, a staggering 17% of the state's General Fund. Given the dramatic reduction in state revenue, the state was forced to slash funding for educational programs and services. In Arizona, elementary and high schools are currently receiving 24% less state funding this year than in 2008. [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/17/11](#); Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [10/7/11](#)]

**In Arizona, 2,100 Education Jobs Have Been Lost Since 2008.** Given Arizona's cuts to education programs, local school districts are forced to cut back on educational programs and services, often laying-off needed teachers and other critical staff, or raising additional revenue to cover the shortfall. As a result, Arizona schools have cut 2,100 education jobs since 2008. These unprecedented layoffs extended the recession and have slowed the recovery in Arizona. [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [10/7/11](#); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed on [10/14/11](#)]

**With Fewer Teachers and Resources, Arizona School Systems Make Choices That Impact the Learning Environment for Students.** "Arizona eliminated preschool for 4,328 children, funding for schools to provide additional support to disadvantaged children from preschool to third grade, aid to charter schools, and funding for books, computers, and other classroom supplies. The state also halved funding for kindergarten, leaving school districts and parents to shoulder the cost of keeping their children in school beyond a half-day schedule." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [2/9/11](#)]

**Democrats Helped Arizona Avoid an Even Worse Situation, Preventing Thousands of Potential Layoffs.** Without Democratic intervention in 2010, Arizona school districts would have been forced to lay off as many as 2,500 teachers. Recognizing the financial difficulty that many state and local governments were experiencing, Democrats shepherded the bipartisan Education Jobs Act into law, thereby protecting 4,000 education jobs in Arizona. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]