

IN COLORADO, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$478.6 MILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 7,000 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 \$450 million projected budget shortfall in 2012, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of Colorado teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide Colorado with an additional \$478.6 million in funds that will support 7,000 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 Colorado economy without adding a dime to the deficit.

Colorado Budget Shortfall Forced State To Slash Education Spending by 4.2 Percent. As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, Colorado faced a budget shortfall of \$450 million in 2012, a staggering 6.2% 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 Colorado, elementary and high schools are currently receiving 4.2% 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 Colorado, 300 Local Government Jobs Have Been Lost Since 2008, Including Teachers. Given Colorado'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, local government employment fell by 300 in Colorado, showing that teachers, police, firefighters, and other public employees faced layoffs. These layoffs extended the recession and have slowed the recovery in Colorado. [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, Colorado School Systems Make Choices That Impact the Learning Environment for Students. "Colorado has reduced public school spending in FY 2011 by \$260 million, nearly a 5 percent decline from the previous year. The cut amounts to more than \$400 per student." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [2/9/11](#)]

Democrats Helped Colorado Avoid an Even Worse Situation, Preventing Thousands of Potential Layoffs. Without Democratic intervention in 2010, Colorado school districts would have been forced to lay off as many as 3,600 teachers. Recognizing the financial difficulty that many state and local governments were experiencing, Democrats shepherded the bipartisan Education Jobs Act into law, thereby protecting 2,600 education jobs in Colorado. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]