

## **IN GEORGIA, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$956.7 MILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 12,800 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 \$1.3 billion projected budget shortfall in 2012, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of Georgia teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide Georgia with an additional \$956.7 million in funds that will support 12,800 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 Georgia economy without adding a dime to the deficit.*

**Georgia Budget Shortfall Forced State To Slash Education Spending by 17.6 Percent.** As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, Georgia faced a budget shortfall of \$1.3 billion in 2012, a staggering 7.6% 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 Georgia, elementary and high schools are currently receiving 17.6% 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 Georgia, 14,800 Education Jobs Have Been Lost Since 2008.** Given Georgia'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, Georgia schools have cut 14,800 education jobs since 2008. These unprecedented layoffs extended the recession and have slowed the recovery in Georgia. [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, Georgia School Systems Make Choices That Impact the Learning Environment for Students.** "Georgia cut state funding for K-12 education for FY 2011 by \$403 million or 5.5 percent relative to FY 2010 levels. The cut has led the state's board of education to exempt local school districts from class size requirements to reduce costs." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [2/9/11](#)]

**Democrats Helped Georgia Avoid an Even Worse Situation, Preventing Potential Layoffs.** Recognizing the financial difficulty that many state and local governments were experiencing, Democrats shepherded the bipartisan Education Jobs Act into law, thereby protecting 5,700 education jobs in Georgia. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]