

IN KANSAS, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$278.5 MILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 4,300 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 \$492 million budget shortfall in 2012, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of Kansas teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide Kansas with an additional \$278.5 million in funds that will support 4,300 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 Kansas economy without adding a dime to the deficit.

Kansas Budget Shortfall Forced State To Slash Education Spending by 12.4 Percent. As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, Kansas faced a budget shortfall of \$492 million in 2012, a staggering 8.1% 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 Kansas, elementary and high schools are currently receiving 12.4% 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 Kansas, 1,600 Local Government Jobs Have Been Lost Since 2008, Including Teachers. Given Kansas' 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 1,600 in Kansas, showing that teachers, police, firefighters, and other public employees faced layoffs. These unprecedented layoffs extended the recession and have slowed the recovery in Kansas. [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, Kansas School Systems Make Choices That Impact the Learning Environment for Students. "Many programs are being cut back or eliminated. Common cuts are full-day kindergarten, art and music in elementary, foreign language, vocational agriculture, skill-building classes, and FACS. After-school programs have been reduced or cut. Many district will offer no or very limited summer school. Some districts are eliminating support positions in media centers and other venues, which restricts the availability to students. Some districts are eliminating librarians and counselors. Schools are increasing student materials fees. Numerous districts have shifted to four-day weeks to save money and are cutting contact days by increasing the length of day." [National Education Association, [4/10](#)]

Democrats Helped Kansas Avoid an Even Worse Situation, Preventing Thousands of Potential Layoffs. Without Democratic intervention in 2010, Kansas school districts would have been forced to lay off as many as 8,700 teachers. Recognizing the financial difficulty that many state and local governments were experiencing, Democrats shepherded the bipartisan Education Jobs Act into law, thereby protecting 1,800 education jobs in Kansas. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]