



IN MASSACHUSETTS, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$591.8 MILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 6,300 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 \$1.8 billion budget shortfall in 2012, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of Massachusetts teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide Massachusetts with an additional \$591.8 million in funds that will support 6,300 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 Massachusetts economy without adding a dime to the deficit.

In Massachusetts, 1,600 Education Jobs Have Been Lost Since 2008. As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, Massachusetts faced a budget shortfall of \$1.8 billion in 2012, a staggering 5.6% 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. As a result, Massachusetts schools have cut 1,600 education jobs since 2008. These unprecedented layoffs extended the recession and have slowed the recovery in Massachusetts. [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [10/7/11](#); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed on [10/14/11](#); Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/17/11](#)]

With Fewer Teachers and Resources, Massachusetts School Systems Make Choices That Impact the Learning Environment for Students. "Massachusetts enacted cuts to Head Start, universal pre-kindergarten programs, and early intervention services to help special-needs children develop appropriately and be ready for school. The state also cut K-12 funding, including spending for mentoring, teacher training, reimbursements for special education residential schools, services for disabled students, and programs for gifted and talented students." [National Education Association, [4/10](#)]

Democrats Helped Massachusetts Avoid an Even Worse Situation, Preventing Thousands of Potential Layoffs. Without Democratic intervention in 2010, Massachusetts school districts would have been forced to lay off as many as 3,900 teachers. Recognizing the financial difficulty that many state and local governments were experiencing, Democrats shepherded the bipartisan Education Jobs Act into law, thereby protecting 2,900 education jobs in Massachusetts. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]