



## IN MAINE, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$117.3 MILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 1,800 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 \$369 million projected budget shortfall in 2013, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of Maine teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide Maine with an additional \$117.3 million in funds that will support 1,800 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 Maine economy without adding a dime to the deficit.*

**Maine Budget Shortfall Forced State To Slash Education Spending by 2.6 Percent.** As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, Maine faced a budget shortfall of \$422 million in 2012, a staggering 13.8% 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 Maine, elementary and high schools are currently receiving 2.6% 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 Maine, 1,700 Local Government Jobs Have Been Lost Since 2008, Including Teachers.** Given Maine'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 1,700 in Maine, showing that teachers, police, firefighters, and other public employees faced layoffs. These unprecedented layoffs extended the recession and have slowed the recovery in Maine. [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [10/7/11](#); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed on [10/14/11](#)]

**Democrats Helped Maine Avoid an Even Worse Situation, Preventing Hundreds of Potential Layoffs.** Without Democratic intervention in 2010, Maine school districts would have been forced to lay off as many as 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 700 education jobs in Maine. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]