

IN MINNESOTA, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$504.4 MILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 6,900 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 \$1.9 billion projected budget shortfall in 2013, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of Minnesota teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide Minnesota with an additional \$504.4 million in funds that will support 6,900 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 Minnesota economy without adding a dime to the deficit.

Minnesota Budget Shortfall Forced State To Slash Education Spending by 7.7 Percent. As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, Minnesota faced a budget shortfall of \$3.8 billion in 2012, a staggering 20.3% 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 Minnesota, elementary and high schools are currently receiving 7.7% 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 Minnesota, 1,200 Education Jobs Have Been Lost Since 2008. Given Minnesota'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, Minnesota schools have cut 1,200 education jobs since 2008. These unprecedented layoffs extended the recession and have slowed the recovery in Minnesota. [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, Minnesota School Systems Make Choices That Impact the Learning Environment for Students. "Minnesota has capped enrollment at current levels for a program that provides expanded health services and care coordination for people with disabilities. The state has also restricted enrollment in or scaled back a number of programs that allow the elderly and disabled to receive services in their home that they might otherwise only be able to receive in a nursing home, hospital, or other institution. As a result, thousands of elderly and disabled Minnesotans will see their access to these services denied or significantly reduced." [National Education Association, [4/10](#)]

Democrats Helped Minnesota Avoid an Even Worse Situation, Preventing Hundreds of Potential Layoffs. Without Democratic intervention in 2010, Minnesota school districts would have been forced to lay off as many as 350 teachers. Recognizing the financial difficulty that many state and local governments were experiencing, Democrats shepherded the bipartisan Education Jobs Act into law, thereby protecting 2,800 education jobs in Minnesota. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]