



## **IN MISSISSIPPI, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$290.3 MILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 4,600 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 \$634 million budget shortfall in 2012, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of Mississippi teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide Mississippi with an additional \$290.3 million in funds that will support 4,600 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 Mississippi economy without adding a dime to the deficit.*

**Mississippi Budget Shortfall Forced State To Slash Education Spending by 12.2 percent.** As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, Mississippi faced a budget shortfall of \$634 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 Mississippi, elementary and high schools are currently receiving 12.2% 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 Mississippi, 2,300 Education Jobs Have Been Lost Since 2008.** Given Mississippi'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, Mississippi schools have cut 2,300 education jobs since 2008. These unprecedented layoffs extended the recession and have slowed the recovery in Mississippi. [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [10/7/11](#); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed on [10/14/11](#)]

**Democrats Helped Mississippi 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 2,000 education jobs in Mississippi. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]