



IN RHODE ISLAND, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$94.3 MILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 1,100 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 \$266 million projected budget shortfall in 2013, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of Rhode Island teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide Rhode Island with an additional \$94.3 million in funds that will support 1,100 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 Rhode Island economy without adding a dime to the deficit.

Rhode Island Budget Shortfall Forced State To Slash Education Spending by 4.4 Percent. As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, Rhode Island faced a budget shortfall of \$219 billion in 2012, a staggering 6.9% 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 Rhode Island, elementary and high schools are currently receiving 4.4% 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 Rhode Island, 3,200 Local Government Jobs Have Been Lost Since 2008, Including Many Teachers. Given Rhode Island'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 3,200 in Rhode Island, showing that teachers, police, firefighters, and other public employees faced layoffs. These unprecedented layoffs extended the recession and have slowed the recovery in Nevada. [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, Rhode Island School Systems Make Choices That Impact the Learning Environment for Students. "Rhode Island cut state aid for K-12 education and reduced the number of children who can be served by Head Start and similar services." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [2/9/11](#)]

Democrats Helped Rhode Island Avoid an Even Worse Situation, Preventing Hundreds of Potential Layoffs. Without Democratic intervention in 2010, Rhode Island school districts would have been forced to lay off as many as 1,162 teachers. Recognizing the financial difficulty that many state and local governments were experiencing, Democrats shepherded the bipartisan Education Jobs Act into law, thereby protecting 500 education jobs in Rhode Island. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]