



IN SOUTH DAKOTA, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$77.6 MILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 1,600 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 \$127 million budget shortfall in 2012, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of South Dakota teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide South Dakota with an additional \$77.6 million in funds that will support 1,600 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 South Dakota economy without adding a dime to the deficit.

South Dakota Budget Shortfall Forced State To Slash Education Spending by 7.6 Percent. As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, South Dakota faced a budget shortfall of \$127 million in 2012, a staggering 11% 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 South Dakota, elementary and high schools are currently receiving 7.6% 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](#)]

Democrats Helped South Dakota 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 500 education jobs in South Dakota. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]