



IN TEXAS, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE NEARLY \$2.6 BILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 39,500 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 \$9 billion projected budget shortfall in 2013, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of Texas teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide Texas with nearly \$2.6 billion in additional funds that will support 39,500 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 Texas economy without adding a dime to the deficit.

Texas Budget Shortfall Forced State To Slash Education Spending by 12 Percent. As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, Texas faced a budget shortfall of \$9 billion in 2012, a staggering 20.5% 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 Texas, elementary and high schools are currently receiving 12% 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 Texas Avoid an Even Worse Situation, Preventing Thousands of Potential Layoffs. Without Democratic intervention in 2010, Texas school districts would have been forced to lay off as many as 2,000 teachers. Recognizing the financial difficulty that many state and local governments were experiencing, Democrats shepherded the bipartisan Education Jobs Act into law, thereby protecting 14,500 education jobs in Texas. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]