

IN VIRGINIA, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$742.3 MILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 10,800 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. Cuts to state and local spending on education could place thousands of Virginia teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide Virginia with an additional \$742.3 million in funds that will support 10,800 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 Virginia economy without adding a dime to the deficit.

Virginia Budget Shortfall Forced State To Slash Education Spending by 11.5 Percent. As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, the state was forced to slash funding for educational programs and services. In Virginia, elementary and high schools are currently receiving 11.5% 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 Virginia, 3,900 Local Government Jobs Have Been Lost Since 2008, Including Many Teachers. Given Virginia'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 3,900 in Virginia, 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, Virginia School Systems Make Choices That Impact the Learning Environment for Students. "\$700 million in cuts for the coming biennium include the state's share of an array of school district operating and capital expenses and funding for class-size reduction in kindergarten through third grade. In addition, a \$500 million reduction in state funding for some 13,000 support staff such as janitors, school nurses, and school psychologists from last year's budget was made permanent." [National Education Association, [4/10](#)]

Democrats Helped Virginia Avoid an Even Worse Situation, Preventing Thousands of Potential Layoffs. Without Democratic intervention in 2010, Virginia school districts would have been forced to lay off as many as 10,000 teachers. Recognizing the financial difficulty that many state and local governments were experiencing, Democrats shepherded the bipartisan Education Jobs Act into law, thereby protecting 3,800 education jobs in Virginia. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]