



IN WASHINGTON, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$627.8 MILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 8,500 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 \$2.5 billion projected budget shortfall in 2013, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of Washington teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide Washington with an additional \$627.8 million in funds that will support 8,500 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 Washington economy without adding a dime to the deficit.

In Washington, Education Cuts Result in Teacher Layoffs And Jeopardize Thousands of Jobs.

As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, Washington faced a budget shortfall of \$2.5 billion in 2012, a staggering 15.3% of the state's General Fund. Given Washington's budget cuts, local school districts could be 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. [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/17/11](#); Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [10/7/11](#)]

With Fewer Teachers and Resources, Washington School Systems Make Choices That Impact the Learning Environment for Students.

"Washington suspended a program to reduce class sizes and provide professional development for teachers; the state also reduced funding for maintaining 4th grade student-to-staff-ratios by \$30 million." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [2/9/11](#)]

Democrats Helped Washington Avoid an Even Worse Situation, Preventing Thousands of Potential Layoffs.

Without Democratic intervention in 2010, Washington school districts would have been forced to lay off as many as 3,000 teachers. Recognizing the financial difficulty that many state and local governments were experiencing, Democrats shepherded the bipartisan Education Jobs Act into law, thereby protecting 3,300 education jobs in Washington. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]