



## **IN WISCONSIN, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$536 MILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 7,400 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 \$1.6 billion projected budget shortfall in 2013, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of Wisconsin teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide Wisconsin with an additional \$536 million in funds that will support 7,400 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 Wisconsin economy without adding a dime to the deficit.*

**Wisconsin Budget Shortfall Forced State To Slash Education Spending by 11.9 Percent.** As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, Wisconsin faced a budget shortfall of \$1.6 billion in 2012, a staggering 11.5% 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 Wisconsin, elementary and high schools are currently receiving 11.9% 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 Wisconsin Avoid an Even Worse Situation, Preventing Hundreds of Potential Layoffs.** Without Democratic intervention in 2010, Wisconsin school districts would have been forced to lay off as many as 1,050 teachers. Recognizing the financial difficulty that many state and local governments were experiencing, Democrats shepherded the bipartisan Education Jobs Act into law, thereby protecting 3,000 education jobs in Wisconsin. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]