



IN ILLINOIS, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$1.24 BILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 14,500 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 \$5.3 billion budget shortfall in 2012, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of Illinois' teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide Illinois with an additional \$1.24 billion in funds that will support 14,500 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 Illinois economy without adding a dime to the deficit.

Illinois Budget Shortfall Forced State To Slash Education Spending by 4.6 Percent. As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, Illinois faced a budget shortfall of \$5.3 billion in 2012, a staggering 16% 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 Illinois, elementary and high schools are currently receiving 4.6% 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](#)]

With Fewer Teachers and Resources, Illinois School Systems Make Choices That Impact the Learning Environment for Students. "Illinois cut school education funding by \$311 million or 4 percent in its FY 2011 budget relative to FY 2010 levels. Cuts include a significant reduction in funding for student transportation and the elimination of a grant program intended to improve the reading and study skills of at-risk students from kindergarten through the 6th grade." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [2/9/11](#)]

Democrats Helped Illinois Avoid an Even Worse Situation, Preventing Thousands of Potential Layoffs. Without Democratic intervention in 2010, Illinois school districts would have been forced to lay off as many as 20,000 teachers. Recognizing the financial difficulty that many state and local governments were experiencing, Democrats shepherded the bipartisan Education Jobs Act into law, thereby protecting 5,700 education jobs in Illinois. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]