



IN NEW JERSEY, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$831.1 MILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 9,300 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 \$10.5 billion budget shortfall in 2012, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of New Jersey teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide New Jersey with an additional \$831.1 million in funds that will support 9,300 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 New Jersey economy without adding a dime to the deficit.

In New Jersey, 6,100 Education Jobs Have Been Lost Since 2008. As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, New Jersey faced a budget shortfall of \$10.5 billion in 2012, a staggering 36% of the state's General Fund. As a result, New Jersey schools have cut 6,100 education jobs since 2008. These unprecedented layoffs extended the recession and have slowed the recovery in New Jersey. [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/17/11](#); 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, New Jersey School Systems Make Choices That Impact the Learning Environment for Students. "New Jersey has cut funding for afterschool programs aimed to enhance student achievement and keep students safe between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m. As a result, more than 11,000 students will likely lose access to these programs, and 1,100 full and part time workers will likely lose their jobs." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [2/9/11](#)]

Democrats Helped New Jersey Avoid an Even Worse Situation, Preventing Thousands of Potential Layoffs. Without Democratic intervention in 2010, New Jersey school districts would have been forced to lay off as many as 9,950 teachers. Recognizing the financial difficulty that many state and local governments were experiencing, Democrats shepherded the bipartisan Education Jobs Act into law, thereby protecting 3,900 education jobs in New Jersey. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]