



*Working with and
Through our State
Associations, NSBA
Advocates for Equity
and Excellence in
Public Education
through School
Board Leadership*

July 28, 2010

Member
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: *Small Business Jobs and Credit Act of 2010, H.R. 5297*

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 95,000 school board members who govern our nation's 15,000 public school districts and employ millions of teachers and school personnel who are vital to the success of our students, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) appreciates your support for our nation's students and urges the Senate's inclusion of the Education Jobs Fund in the *Small Business Jobs and Credit Act of 2010* that will help our school districts and states save 140,000 education jobs.

Congress' passage of this legislation is urgently needed to help school districts throughout the nation save the jobs of thousands of teachers and staff whose work directly benefits student achievement and school performance. The majority of funding provided through the *American Recovery & Reinvestment Act* (ARRA) is already utilized and/or obligated by districts and states. States are facing a cumulative budget shortfall of more than \$200 billion; and, several state governments are contemplating additional cuts to education in Fiscal Year 2011. The impact of such drastic budget cuts to education includes: cuts to core instruction and larger class sizes that do not facilitate the type of interaction and specialized curriculum for many students and teachers; the loss of specialists for intervention programs, such as reading and math coaches and after school tutoring; and, discontinued extracurricular programs that help provide a well-rounded education program for our students.

Without a targeted extension of fiscal stabilization funding for education that will save jobs and enable school districts to continue effective programs to close achievement gaps and raise proficiency levels, the progress made through ARRA will not be sustained. Without a targeted extension of stabilization funding for education, unemployment rates will not be reduced. The effect of intervening now to save jobs in our nation's school districts—especially as districts continue to develop budgets for the next fiscal year—will yield immediate benefits in our communities and help our children become globally competitive for the future. The jobs sustained for teachers, math and reading coaches, after school programs staff, bus drivers, and other personnel will help alleviate unemployment, benefit other sectors of the economy, and continue a path of success for our students and schools.

Please contact Deborah Rigsby at (703) 838-6208 or drigsby@nsba.org for additional information. NSBA appreciates your strong support for our students and school districts, and urges the Senate's swift passage of this measure.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Resnick
Associate Executive Director

MAR: dr/kc

G:Adv/HillLetters/Senate/07.28.10JobsLtrtoFullSenate

Attachment

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Data Relevant to the Education Jobs Fund

The Education Jobs Fund would provide \$10 billion to school districts and states to help save teaching positions and related education jobs critical to student achievement and the delivery of education services.

State	Projected Funding Allocation	Estimated Number of Teaching Positions Saved	May 2010 Unemployment Rate %	Preliminary June 2010 Unemployment Rate %
Alabama	\$150,116,714	2,250	10.7	10.3
Alaska	\$23,274,867	267	8.2	7.9
Arizona	\$211,725,729	3,621	9.6	9.6
Arkansas	\$91,329,260	1,496	7.7	7.5
California	\$1,224,277,325	13,318	12.4	12.3
Colorado	\$157,440,467	2,393	8.0	8.0
Connecticut	\$111,131,021	1,251	8.9	8.8
Delaware	\$27,751,335	332	8.8	8.5
District of Columbia	\$18,405,612	251	10.4	10.0
Florida	\$554,617,721	8,959	11.7	11.4
Georgia	\$319,549,711	4,397	10.1	10.0
Hawaii	\$39,605,438	517	6.6	6.3
Idaho	\$50,945,595	836	9.0	8.8
Illinois	\$422,920,859	5,118	10.8	10.4
Indiana	\$206,855,335	3,032	10.0	10.1
Iowa	\$97,029,183	1,503	6.8	6.8
Kansas	\$92,576,871	1,572	6.6	6.5
Kentucky	\$133,778,719	2,100	10.4	10.0
Louisiana	\$147,412,284	2,222	6.8	7.0
Maine	\$39,470,566	614	8.0	8.0
Maryland	\$180,464,292	2,060	7.3	7.1
Massachusetts	\$205,622,677	2,083	9.2	9.0
Michigan	\$324,345,191	3,803	13.6	13.2
Minnesota	\$167,381,034	2,411	7.0	6.8
Mississippi	\$98,698,415	1,668	11.4	11.0
Missouri	\$189,050,477	3,336	9.3	9.1
Montana	\$30,612,584	527	7.2	7.3
Nebraska	\$58,781,967	966	4.9	4.8
Nevada	\$82,063,577	1,184	14.0	14.2
New Hampshire	\$40,988,991	581	6.4	5.9

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State	Projected Funding Allocation	Estimated Number of Teaching Positions Saved	May 2010 Unemployment Rate %	Preliminary June 2010 Unemployment Rate %
New Jersey	\$272,977,026	2,845	9.7	9.6
New Mexico	\$65,343,432	1,077	8.4	8.2
New York	\$621,934,792	6,263	8.3	8.2
North Carolina	\$295,326,583	4,794	10.4	10.0
North Dakota	\$21,387,610	392	3.6	3.6
Ohio	\$366,857,335	4,920	10.7	10.5
Oklahoma	\$118,970,048	2,090	6.7	6.8
Oregon	\$117,417,119	1,448	10.6	10.5
Pennsylvania	\$390,574,921	4,899	9.2	9.2
Rhode Island	\$33,663,226	396	12.3	12.0
South Carolina	\$143,417,582	2,298	11.1	10.7
South Dakota	\$26,248,948	574	4.6	4.5
Tennessee	\$195,071,644	3,279	10.4	10.1
Texas	\$824,380,503	14,846	8.3	8.2
Utah	\$100,381,691	1,645	7.3	7.2
Vermont	\$19,264,529	290	6.2	6.0
Virginia	\$247,676,618	3,704	7.1	7.0
Washington	\$206,926,562	2,963	9.2	8.9
West Virginia	\$54,622,712	810	8.9	8.5
Wisconsin	\$179,943,245	2,329	8.2	7.9
Wyoming	\$17,149,869	231	7.0	6.8
Puerto Rico	\$132,240,185	N/A	16.9	16.3
Total	\$9,950,000,000¹	136,761	9.7%²	9.5%²

¹\$50,000,000 of the \$10 billion Education Jobs Fund would be reserved for schools run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

²reflects national unemployment rate for those months.

Notes: Column two lists the projected funding allocation that would be provided to each state under the Education Jobs Fund, based on data compiled by the Education Commission of the States (ECS). Column three lists the estimated number of teaching positions that would be saved or created because of the projected funding, according to ECS data. Columns four and five list recent monthly unemployment rates per state, as compiled by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The June 2010 preliminary data in the last column reflects unemployment by state using seasonally adjusted payroll employment data reported by BLS.

Please note that the change in the unemployment rate from May to June is attributed to *seasonal* employment data. The rate may not decline further if such jobs are not sustained and if layoffs in school districts continue because of budget crises. The Education Jobs Fund would help school districts and states retain more than 136,000 education jobs and mitigate layoffs.

According to Dr. Christina Romer, Chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisors, the United States is “seven and one-half million jobs down [from] before the recession started.” In her remarks on July 15, 2010, during a conference call with the media and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Dr. Romer stated that the *American Recovery & Reinvestment Act* (ARRA) has helped save/create a substantial number of jobs, and that we have a “long way to go” towards full economic recovery.



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