

LegAlert



20 May 2010



Call, Write to Protect Education Programs, Jobs **Urge Approval of \$23B in Federal Aid to Schools**

CTA and NEA representatives are pressing Congress for the approval of \$23 billion in federal aid to protect students and schools from the devastating effects of massive budget cuts.

A key element of the federal Keep Our Educators Working act is that it will stave off more teacher layoffs. By keeping teachers teaching, it will help keep class sizes from ballooning and districts from having to cram more students into every classroom.

California schools suffered 16,000 layoffs last year, and another 26,000 layoff notices have been issued this year.

With California schools already suffering more than \$17 billion in slashes and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proposing in May more than \$4 billion in additional cuts, the federal Keep Our Educators Working Act would provide schools here and around the nation with funds to stave off some of the most draconian cuts.

Background

CTA/NEA Board members lobbied hard in Washington, D.C. in April in support of these efforts spearheaded by U.S. Sen. Tom Harken and U.S. Rep. David R. Obey (D-WI) and U.S. Rep. George Miller (D-CA) to have these education funding provisions placed in an emergency appropriations bill in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Obama administration is fully in support of this vital legislation. Administration representatives understand how badly these cuts will harm our students and our schools. They also know these cuts will ripple through the rest of the economy, making economic recovery harder to achieve for everyone.

The funds will help save teachers' jobs so that class sizes will not grow even larger.

In California, more than 24,000 teachers have received layoff notices, and the state faces a \$19.1 billion revenue shortfall, according to the governor's Department of Finance.

Throughout the United States, as many as 300,000 educators could lose their jobs without inclusion of the Harken amendment in pending emergency funding measures, according to NEA statistics. More information about the bill can be found on the NEA website:
<http://www.educationvotes.nea.org/>

CTA Coordinators: Contact Congress

CTA members can help win the fight by communicating with their members of Congress.

Use the link below to go to NEA's Leg Action Center to contact your lawmaker electronically:

<http://www.capwiz.com/nea/issues/alert/?alertid=15045411&type=co>

And call **1-866-608-6355** right now and on Wed., May 26, National Speak Up (And Call In) Day. You will be routed to your Congressional representative.

- **Urge** your congressperson to vote for the adding the Keep Our Educators Working Act to the emergency supplemental appropriations bill in Congress.

For more information, contact CTA Legislative Advocate Patricia Rucker or Governmental Relations Division Communications Consultant Len Feldman at 916.325.1500.

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