

## Murphy Returns to Washington for Vote to Save 1,500 Connecticut Teacher Jobs, Boost State's Medicaid Coffers

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - After the U.S. Senate finally acted on legislation in response to shortfalls in state and local budgets, Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) returned to Washington today to vote to save 1,500 teaching jobs in Connecticut and help shore up dangerous state shortfalls putting essential jobs and services at risk.

"To see the disastrous consequences of teacher layoffs, we only need to look to New Britain, where looming budget cuts were going to result in 40 kids to a classroom. We cannot tolerate this recession creeping into our schools, so with this bill going to President Obama's desk, we can provide the additional resources necessary to educate our kids," said Murphy.

The legislation, H.R. 1586, the Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act, provides a \$10 billion federal investment in education jobs, including \$110.5 million for the state, without adding to the deficit. The bill also includes \$16.1 billion in health assistance to the states that, by reducing shortfalls, \$199 million for Connecticut to help keep many others on the job, including health professionals, police officers, and firefighters. Failure to pass this bill would force states like Connecticut to lay off more workers, cut more services, and raise taxes more than they would otherwise to balance their budgets.

When this bill is signed into law, the 5th District is estimated to receive \$23.4 million for education jobs, protecting about 325 teaching positions. Federal assistance will help alleviate the need for damaging cuts in public education such as shortening the school week and greatly increasing class sizes.

Connecticut will have to apply for their share of these federal dollars, and the U.S. Department of Education will distribute the funds to states via a formula based on total population and school age population. States will then have the option of distributing the funds to school districts based on their customary funding formulas or the federal Title I formula. The bill prohibits states from using their teacher job funds to pay off debt or for a "rainy day" fund.

Education makes up the one of the largest items in state budgets, so Murphy supported several attempts to send this critical funding to President Obama's desk. Last year, Murphy also voted for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which was signed into law on February 17, 2009 and made a historic \$100 billion investment in education to save vital jobs and programs from being cut. Connecticut has received \$765,369,365 in education Recovery funds to date.

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