



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**School Finance Network Applauds Leadership on Jobs Bill**

*Federal funds would help districts in the short-term, but school finance reform still needed*

Members of the School Finance Network today applauded federal leaders, including members of the Wisconsin congressional delegation, for their leadership efforts on behalf of the Keep our Educators Working Act. The SFN also thanked Superintendent Tony Evers for his advocacy work in support of the bill.

The Keep our Educators Working Act is the Senate’s version of a nearly identical bill that has been passed by the House of Representatives. The bill provides states with the critical funds needed to stem the tide of drastic cuts to education.

A letter that was signed by the nine partner organizations that make up the SFN and sent to the Wisconsin delegation spoke of the need for funding and the federal government’s role in ensuring the ongoing stability of our schools.

*Although the first round of stabilization has helped our state maintain a diminished status quo in terms of funding for our schools, more is now needed. While we have to change the way we fund our public schools, Wisconsin has a projected \$2.3 billion deficit for the 2011-13 biennium. This translates to a potential \$800 million of cuts in state aid to public schools in the next biennium. Because of this shortfall--and the fact that the state must balance its budget each biennium--there are likely to be severe cuts to vital services, including education.*

*Although we face making significant cuts to education, we know that the knowledge and skills of our students are more important than ever before. Research and common sense tell us that education promotes long-term economic growth for individuals as well as the state. Investments in education maintain employment, improve home values, and allow individuals to rise to their full potential, boosting their lifetime earnings. Education also increases productivity and creates the kind of highly-skilled workforce that is necessary for success in the future.*

*Only the federal government has the capacity and the means to further help the nation out of recession and into recovery. Leading economists suggest that a second round of state budget cuts could actually plunge the nation back into full recession as employees are laid off at state, county, and local levels. As these incomes evaporate, further downward pressure is placed on housing and consumption, and overall economic activity is depressed. Now, as much as ever, the government needs to maintain stimulus activity by keeping people employed.*

A copy of the letter is posted to the School Finance Network’s website, at [http://sfnwisconsin.org/special/libfile\\_files/media/43.pdf](http://sfnwisconsin.org/special/libfile_files/media/43.pdf).

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**COALITION PARTNERS**

- AFT – Wisconsin  
[www.aft-wisconsin.org](http://www.aft-wisconsin.org)
- Fair Aid Coalition
- School Administrators Alliance  
[www.wsaa.org](http://www.wsaa.org)
- Southeastern Wisconsin Schools Alliance  
[www.schoolsalliance.com](http://www.schoolsalliance.com)
- Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools  
[www.excellentschools.org](http://www.excellentschools.org)
- Wisconsin Association of School Boards  
[www.wasb.org](http://www.wasb.org)
- Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators  
[www.wasda.org](http://www.wasda.org)
- Wisconsin Education Association Council  
[www.weac.org](http://www.weac.org)
- Wisconsin Parent Teacher Association (PTA)  
[www.wisconsinpta.org](http://www.wisconsinpta.org)

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