



## National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc.

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May 17, 2010

Dear Senator:

On behalf of The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), which represents the state directors of special education in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Agency, the federal territories and the Freely Associated States, I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of an amendment that will be offered on the floor by Senator Harkin to include \$23 billion for an education jobs fund in the FY 10 emergency supplemental appropriations bill.

The \$23 billion will help stave off the massive education jobs cuts that states and local school districts are currently experiencing. It is estimated that more than 60,000 elementary and secondary educators could lose their jobs next school year in three states alone – California, New York and Illinois. According to a survey undertaken by the American Association of School Administrators, 275,000 teachers and education employees face layoffs in the upcoming school year. These job cuts are on top of deep cuts that were already made during the 2009-10 school year,

The education of today's youth to be tomorrow's workforce is critical to the economic recovery of this country. Our nation cannot afford to shortchange our education system by making drastic cuts to the education workforce. We urge you to support this critical amendment that will save education jobs and help ensure the future of our nation's children, including those who are most vulnerable – children with disabilities – by making sure that their classroom teachers will be there when they return to school next fall. Thank you for your support of our nation's children.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact NASDSE's Director of Government Relations, Nancy Reder, at [nancy.reder@nasdse.org](mailto:nancy.reder@nasdse.org) or 703-519-3800, ext.334.

Sincerely,

Bill East, Ed.D  
Executive Director