



National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc.

*1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 320, Alexandria, VA 22314
Tel: 703/519-3800 Fax: 703/519-3808 www.nasdse.org*

April 13, 2010

The Honorable Tom Harkin
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

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 Bureau of Indian Education, the Department of Defense Education Agency, the federal territories and the Freely Associated States, I am writing to thank you for introducing "Keep Our Educators Working Act of 2010."

The \$23 billion contained in the bill will help stave off the massive education jobs cuts that states and local are currently experiencing. Indeed, 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. The education of today's youth to be tomorrow's workforce is critical to the economic recovery of this country and saving jobs in the education sector is of paramount importance to the future of this country.

Again we thank you for introducing this critically important piece of legislation and we look forward to working with you and your staff on this important issue.

Please do not hesitate to contact NASDSE's Director of Government Relations, Nancy Reder at nancy.reder@nasdse.org or 703-519-3800, ext.334 to let us know how we can help ensure passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Bill East, Ed.D
Executive Director