



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

Pat Quinn
GOVERNOR

June 7, 2010

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

I am writing today to urge the United States House of Representatives to include education jobs funding in the upcoming emergency supplemental spending legislation. The education funding championed by Chairman Dave Obey would allow school districts across the nation to preserve teaching jobs and focus on the many important reforms that the Department of Education has outlined in the Race to the Top program and other federal initiatives.

The State Fiscal Stabilization Fund arrived at a critical time for Illinois and helped us preserve thousands of jobs in our schools and universities. While signs of recovery are beginning to be seen across the country, there are still unprecedented funding challenges impacting nearly every classroom in America. In Illinois, we are using every tool available to address these challenges, but it will be some time before we will see a full recovery.

An education jobs fund modeled after the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund would allow us to preserve the current level of support for education in Illinois. Schools are struggling to maintain even this basic level of support as costs continue to rise. Without an education jobs fund, Illinois will be forced to make devastating cuts. Illinois school districts are estimating a loss of approximately 20,000 jobs across the state in the upcoming school year if we are unable to replace these federal dollars.

We appreciate all that has been done to preserve education funding. I am asking the House to carefully consider the impact on the education of our children if no further action is taken at the federal level to support our teachers and schools. Nothing is more critical than providing our children with a world-class education. I urge your support for education jobs funding in order to help us achieve that goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Quinn".

Pat Quinn
Governor