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Hoyer Statement on Senate Passage of Legislation to Provide Aid to States, Save Jobs

WASHINGTON, DC – House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (MD) released the following statement today after the Senate passed legislation to provide aid to states and keep teachers, police officers, and firefighters on the job:

“Today, the Senate passed important legislation to save 290,000 jobs and help states continue providing a range of essential services, from school programs to health care, without adding to the deficit. Had Republicans succeeded in blocking these funds, teachers would have been taken out of our children’s classrooms, fewer firefighters and police officers would have been on duty protecting our neighborhoods, and more Americans would have gone without the medical care they need. And just as harmfully, a massive wave of layoffs would have further depressed local economies, deepening the joblessness that the Bush Administration left behind.

“It has been especially cynical for Republicans to label as ‘special interests’ the teachers who educate our children, the police officers who patrol our streets, and the firefighters who risk their lives for our safety. This is particularly hypocritical in light of Republicans’ continued support for tax breaks for corporations that send American jobs overseas. In the Republican worldview, corporations exploiting tax loopholes are not special interests—but teachers are. Because Democrats reject that view, we will return to session next week to send this legislation to the president’s desk.”

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