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RI CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION STANDS UP FOR RHODE ISLAND'S PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, TEACHERS, POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS

KEY VOTE ON BILL THAT SAVES JOBS, REDUCES DEFICIT, SHOWS WHO RHODE ISLAND WORKING FAMILIES CAN TRUST

North Providence – With today's vote on H.R. 1586, Rhode Island's Congressional Delegation helped save thousands of public and private sector jobs, keeps teachers in the classroom, first responders on the beat, and Rhode Island's economy moving forward at a critical time, all while actually reducing the deficit.

"Council 94 thanks our Congressional Delegation for doing the right thing for the people of Rhode Island," said J. Michael Downey, president of Rhode Island Council 94, AFSCME. "Without the jobs bill, we'd be looking at mass layoffs and further budget slashing at a time when our families can absolutely least afford it."

Community leaders from across Rhode Island have called on their Representatives and Senators to make the right choice on H.R. 1586 to protect these workers who provide essential services for our neighborhoods and families. Without this assistance, already struggling local economies would face even greater burdens.

Economists across the political spectrum had urged Congress to pass the legislation as a critical move to keep our nation's tenuous economic recovery from faltering. Additionally, funds for this fully paid-for bill will help ease state and local budget shortfalls without adding a penny to the national deficit.

"The votes of Representative Kennedy, Representative Langevin, Senator Reed, and Senator Whitehouse were vital for Rhode Island's future, and we're grateful that they stood up for us," said President Downey. "This bill will save thousands of jobs and strengthen Rhode Island's economy, without adding a dime to the deficit. Council 94 appreciates their persistence and perseverance in securing funding that will directly attack joblessness in a meaningful way."

AFSCME International and state affiliates waged an aggressive communications and mobilization campaign in support of federal aid for state/local governments and school districts. Nationwide AFSCME generated more than 60,000 phone calls, letters and emails to targeted members of Congress.