



What recess? House to return for state budget vote

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From NBC's Shawna Thomas

With just a tweet, it's back to Washington for members of the U.S. House.

The House will return from its August recess next week to vote on legislation to send \$26 billion to cash-strapped states for Medicaid and education funding.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced the decision to bring the Congress back into session via her Twitter account. "I will be calling the House back into session early next week to save teachers' jobs and help seniors & children," she tweeted Wednesday.

Per the House Historian, the last time that the House was called back into session during the summer recess was September 2005 for a vote on emergency supplemental funds in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Before that, the House returned early in August 1991 to vote on domestic spending measures.

The domestic spending measure overcame its last major hurdle in the Senate earlier today, with Republican Sens. Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins of Maine voting with the Democratic caucus to break a GOP filibuster.

Republicans say that the education funding in the spending package amounts to a handout for public employee unions. "Democrats would be better off listening to their constituents, who are asking, 'where are the jobs,' rather than returning to Washington, D.C. to vote for more tax hikes and special interest bailouts," said Michael Steel, a spokesman for Minority Leader John Boehner.

Msnbc.com's Carrie Dann and NBC's Ken Strickland contributed.