



## **Why We Support Senate Candidate Elizabeth Warren**

MTA members have a genuine opportunity to make a difference in the race between our candidate for U.S. Senate, Elizabeth Warren, and Republican Senator Scott Brown. This is one of the most closely watched races in the nation and control of the U.S. Senate could be at stake. Below are some of Warren's and Brown's positions on important education and fiscal issues affecting MTA members and the students we serve.

### **Warren understands the value of public education because it changed her life.**

- A graduate of a public high school, public university and public law school, Warren credits her success – from daughter of a maintenance man to Harvard Law School professor – to an America that “invests in its kids.” She wants to create the same kind of opportunities for current and future generations of students.

### **Warren believes that investing in our children is essential to our economic future.**

- She believes that public schools, colleges and universities and technical training give us the best work-force in the world, which is essential for our success in a global economy.
- She will fight for federal support for public schools and colleges and will make it a priority to increase funding for individuals with disabilities and students living in high-poverty areas.

### **Warren says we need to make college more affordable so students don't find themselves drowning in debt when they graduate.**

- While Brown voted twice to double the interest rate on student loans, Warren called on Congress to keep student loan rates at the lower level. She also favors limiting loan payments and forgiving a portion of debt after 10 years under certain circumstances.
- Brown voted to cut Pell Grants for 135,000 low-income Massachusetts students. Warren favors retaining Pell Grants, which are critically important for enabling low-income students to receive the higher education and training they need to secure their future success.

### **As a teacher herself, Warren understands the challenges that today's educators face both inside and outside the classroom. She wants educators to have more of a voice in setting education policy.**

- A former special needs teacher, she knows that a great educator can make a huge difference in a child's life. She will listen to the views of educators in making policy decisions.

### **Warren believes in accountability for Wall Street and a level playing field for the middle class.**

- She has been dubbed the “New Sheriff of Wall Street” by *Time* Magazine for her efforts to hold financial institutions accountable and to stand up for working people.
- She led the fight to create the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which was established one year ago to crack down on deceptive practices by credit card and mortgage companies.

- She believes “we need a strong cop on the beat so no one will steal your purse on Main Street and your pension on Wall Street.”

**Brown supports policies that favor the wealthy at the expense of public employees, the middle class and low-income families.**

- During his time in the U.S. Senate, Brown voted to give tax breaks to millionaires and special subsidies to multinational oil companies.
- Like Mitt Romney, Brown favors extending tax breaks to the wealthiest taxpayers even though that means cutting education, health care and other services for middle- and low-income families.
- While in the Senate, Brown voted to block the Buffett rule, which would have required the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share.
- While Warren was working to rein in Wall Street, Brown was negotiating to give the big banks a \$19 billion dollar tax break.

**Warren wants to put people back to work in Massachusetts.**

- She supports rebuilding roads and bridges, mass transit and rail – efforts that will provide jobs directly and will support commerce by improving our infrastructure.
- She supports adequate funding for municipalities so that educators, police officers, fire fighters and others who provide essential services to our communities remain on the job.

**Brown voted for a Republican budget bill estimated to cost 17,000 jobs in Massachusetts and reduce federal training to the state by millions of dollars, affecting 27,000 potential workers.**

- Brown also voted eight times against extending unemployment aid to people who’d lost their jobs. These votes caused an estimated 30,000 laid-off Massachusetts workers to lose their benefits. [Senate votes #48, #194, #200, #204, #209 and #215 on H.R. 4213; Senate votes #116, #117, on H.R. 4851; 3/10/2010 through 7/21/2010; and Senate vote 336, 3/9/11]

**Warren opposes private school voucher proposals and similar proposals that take money away from public schools.**

- Brown supports vouchers for public, private or religious schools.

**Although NCLB helped shine a spotlight on the achievement gap and increased awareness of the need to take swift action to improve our education system, Warren believes that it has been overly rigid, with unreasonable deadlines and provisions that punish schools rather than help them.**

- She supports better ways to realize our goal of improving American education, including more flexibility, more support for teachers and schools, and more professional development.
- Warren wants programs to be developed in collaboration with teachers and principals, who know their students, classrooms and communities the best.



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