



WHAT TO DO if the Freedom Foundation contacts you ...

Nationally, and here in Washington, extremist groups are using the U.S. Supreme Court's Janus ruling to attack union membership. Many people have received emails from the Mackinac Center in Michigan, funded literally by Betsy DeVos' family foundation and other billionaires, who want to eliminate public sector unions.

In our state, these anti-union efforts are spearheaded by the Freedom Foundation, which sometimes uses front groups ("Opt-out Today," for example) as a cover for their anti-union activities. Regardless of the name, all of these groups may say they stand for freedom or your interests, but they actually oppose most of the things we champion. They oppose better funding for public education, smaller class sizes, and they attack our collective bargaining rights — our freedom to negotiate fair pay with our school districts.

The Freedom Foundation is sending paid canvassers to harass union members at their homes this summer. In the past, these paid canvassers have been known to lie by claiming they are from the union. In reality, they are attempting to coerce union members into signing paperwork under false pretenses. If you are contacted by someone you suspect is from the Freedom Foundation, here's how you can protect yourself:

You have the right to request the ID of the Freedom Foundation staff member.

Any time a solicitor comes to your door, you can ask to see their identification. In the past, Freedom Foundation canvassers have led people to believe they are from the union. Union reps will always carry ID, so it is easy to verify who they are. If you are concerned about who you are talking to, just ask. Then share that information with your local association and, if necessary, we can alert other members to be on the lookout.

You are not required to sign anything provided to you by the Freedom Foundation.

If you are approached and feel uncomfortable, you should ask that the Freedom Foundation staffer leave your property or your workplace and ask to be removed from their contact list.

You have a right to be removed from the Freedom Foundation's contact list.

If you are contacted after requesting removal, you should contact your union/building representative and report the activity. The Freedom Foundation does not have the right to harass you.

You have the right to take a picture or record video of your conversation with the Freedom Foundation staffer.

Politely tell them that you are recording the conversation for your protection. Capturing this information with your smartphone will help authorities identify the Freedom Foundation staffer if you experience harassment — and it will help other union members protect themselves.

At any time, if you feel scared or intimidated, ask the Freedom Foundation representative to leave the premises immediately and call 9-1-1.

If you'd like more information about the Freedom Foundation and other anti-union groups, visit the WEA website at www.WashingtonEA.org.



It's been about a month since the U.S. Supreme Court's Janus decision against

public sector unions' ability to collect fair share representation fees. What does this mean for WEA members accessing WEA program and services? Below is a list of some of the programs and services available exclusively for members. Contact your WEA UniServ staff if you have more questions.

- Access to WEA-sponsored professional development and clock hour trainings on topics including special education, employment law, common core, evaluation, etc. Most of WEA's trainings are developed by and for educators. Visit <https://www.washingtonea.org/pg/> for more information. Non-members are not eligible to take WEA trainings.

- Ability to attend local association meetings and social functions.
- Eligibility to attend meetings or participate in bargaining-related functions including interest surveys, input into bargaining issues, and contract ratification.

- Eligibility to vote and run for union offices at local, state and national levels.

- Access to state and national meetings including the annual representative assemblies.

- Ability to participate in association-sponsored retirement seminars.

- Access to certain legal services, such as wage and hour complaints, certification hearings, or discounts to participating attorneys. Some restrictions may apply.

- Access to NEA Member Benefits including but not limited to the "Click and Save" discount program; term life insurance; home mortgage program; auto purchase, and insurance.

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