

What to do if the Freedom Foundation contacts you

The controversial **Freedom Foundation** is funded by groups connected to Secretary of Education **Betsy DeVos**. The Freedom Foundation and its allies (including Opt-Out Today) are outspoken supporters of DeVos' privatization agenda of charter schools and vouchers. DeVos recently raised \$1 million to fund their agenda in our state. They also 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. These paid canvassers have lied 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.**
 - Anyone from WEA or your local union will always carry identification. The Freedom Foundation operatives have been known to lie about their identity. You have the right to write down their information and report it to your local union representative. This will help protect other WEA members from harassment.
- **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 **Betsy DeVos**, visit the WEA website at www.WashingtonEA.org.

