



*A Union of Professionals*

**AFT Washington**  
AFL-CIO

# THE FACTS about the FREEDOM FOUNDATION

## “Freedom” to hurt working people?

The Freedom Foundation (FF) is an anti-union group that has contacted AFT Washington members asking them to leave the union and become “fee payers.” They claim workers will “get a raise” by opting out of the union. They claim they’re for “freedom.” Freedom from what? Freedom to have lower wages? Freedom to work without a contract that protects your rights? Freedom to take away your voice?

### ***We’re not falling for it. Here’s the truth:***

- **Union workers make on average 13 percent more than non-union workers.**
- **African-American union members earn 31 percent more than their nonunion counterparts.**
- **The wage gap between women and men in nonunion workplaces is shameful. For nonunion workers, women earn only 78 cents for every dollar a man makes. But in union workplaces, women make 91 cents for every man’s dollar, and the gap continues to close.**

### ***What is the Freedom Foundation?***

The Freedom Foundation, an organization founded by the billionaire Koch brothers, is tiny, rich, and loud. The Koch brothers and their cronies make huge profits off low-wage labor. They use that money to prop up politicians – from local school boards to the U.S. Congress – who pass legislation that hurts us.

### ***The real mission of the “Freedom” Foundation:***

- **To keep workers trapped in low wages.**
- **To break the unions and make America a pool of low-wage labor without the protections of a contract.**
- **To attack public sector workers – that’s us – as the last barrier to the greed-based business plans of the 1 percent.**

### ***Here’s what else the Freedom Foundation really stands for —***

**Attacks on working people:** The foundation opposes an increase in the minimum wage, paid sick days, and increases in education funding.

**Attacks on women and families:** The foundation criticizes the rights of working women. FF CEO Tom McCabe declared there’s a “concerted effort by liberals and women’s groups to eradicate all manly jobs.” (Just for the record, we are pro-jobs, “manly,” “womanly” and “other.”)

**Attacks on LGBT rights:** It said the Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage, is a “threat to personal freedom” and it shares financial ties with groups who support “gay conversion” therapy.

**Attacks on environmental protections:** It filed a lawsuit to block policies that would combat climate change.

## ***Our Answer:***

***“No thanks, I’m union and I’m proud!”***

For more information or to get involved, contact Dan Troccoli, AFT Washington, at **206-432-8074**.

If you receive a Freedom Foundation leaflet, please save it and contact us at the number above.

