

# There's an organization trying to get us to drop our union membership.

# **BUT WHO'S BEHIND IT?**



The so-called "Freedom Foundation" and Opt Out Today have been attacking our membership and trying to spread **lies and misinformation** because they want to weaken us.

## **GET THE FACTS!**

### **WHO'S BEHIND "OPT OUT TODAY"?**

The "Freedom Foundation" is a network of billionaires funding Opt Out Today—they're a front group for radical anti-union, ultra-wealthy donors who want to trick us into thinking that if we leave our union, we'll save money and still maintain all of the rights and benefits that we've fought for.

### **WHY ARE THEY TRYING TO WEAKEN OUR UNION?**

**Because we win.** When we stand together as dues-paying union members, we can fight for contracts and legislation that benefit workers, not the ultra-rich.

In recent years we've won:

- ✓ Legislation to expand what we can bargain for, like layoff protections.
- ✓ Properly funded pensions.
- ✓ Strong contracts with annual raises and no concessions.

But all of that could go away if we don't stick together.

### **WHAT'S THEIR GOAL?**

Power. It's as simple as that. We have power when we stand together as a union, and the ultra-rich funders of the "Freedom Foundation" want to take it from us to make it easier for them to keep wages and benefits for working people low and make themselves even richer.

They also want to privatize our jobs so that they can profit off of our work and the vital services that we provide.

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# "FREEDOM FOUNDATION" LIES

## LIE: THE "FREEDOM FOUNDATION" IS FIGHTING FOR AMERICAN WORKERS

**TRUTH:** The "Freedom Foundation" has actively opposed measures that would benefit working families. Their founder even helped write a "toolkit" with plans for cutting employee pensions, raising the retirement age, health insurance costs, and delaying raises. They use rhetoric like "freedom" to cover up their true actions and goals. **Here are their real values:**

- Against public employee benefits
- Against paid sick leave
- Against raising the minimum wage
- Against retirement security

## LIE: THE "FREEDOM FOUNDATION" WANTS TO "LIBERATE" WORKERS FROM UNIONS

**TRUTH:** Opt Out Today, funded by the "Freedom Foundation," sends misleading mail and emails to union members. Sometimes it's a promise of a raise, sometimes it's a letter dressed up to look like a legal notice, sometimes it looks like it's an actual check—**they're all attempts to trick union members into signing away our rights.** If union members are really in need of "liberating," why would Opt Out Today have to trick us to do so? The reality is that they want us to drop our membership for **their** gain—not ours.

## LIE: THE "FREEDOM FOUNDATION" HAS AMERICAN INTERESTS AT HEART

**TRUTH:** Many "Freedom Foundation" donors have ties to **extreme right-wing hate groups** and public figures that seek to divide our country, including:

Center for Immigration Studies, a xenophobic, anti-immigration think-tank with a long history of publishing racist writers and association with white nationalists.

Alliance Defending Freedom, an anti-LGBTQ hate group has supported criminalizing the LGBTQ community as well as attempted to tie up time, attention, and resources on anti-trans "bathroom bills" that a majority of Americans oppose.

Charles Murray, a "political scientist" who uses racist pseudoscience to argue that minority communities, women, and poor families are genetically inferior.

## LIE: YOU'RE BETTER OFF ALONE

**TRUTH:** We know that we're stronger together, but if anyone needed more convincing, study after study after study after study shows that union members in the US are better off than our non-union counterparts. The Center for American Progress published an updated report this year on the financial impact of union membership, concluding that **"no matter the measure, union membership offers substantially more wealth for working-class families."**

Union households hold nearly four times as much median wealth as the typical non-union household.

Unionized workers make nearly \$10,000 year a more than workers who aren't in unions.

60 percent more union workers have a defined-benefit pension plan than non-union workers.

**The reality about Opt Out Today and their backers is that they openly brag about trying to reduce salaries, eliminate public pensions, and undercut public sector union workers in general.**

Don't believe the frauds trying to break our union.  
**We're stronger together!**

**CWA**