

**Statement by Justin Hakes**  
**Director of Legal Information**  
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Over the past few months, WFSE officials have taken no prisoners in compelling Washington's public servants to pay union dues. In fact, union officials have ordered dozens of employees from across the state fired, simply for refusal to pay. For union officials, it's all about the money. It's either pay up -- or be fired.

All the while, union officials have refused to honor the basic constitutional protections required under the First Amendment.

Many other employees are paying under protest to avoid losing their jobs. And further firings are imminent.

Upon losing their jobs, many of the fired employees have been specifically told that they are doing great work and are not being terminated because of poor job performance, but because they refuse to pay dues to a union in which they want no part.

Meanwhile, union officials have enlisted State of Washington officers to do their dirty work.

Well, we're here today because Washington's public servants have had enough, and are putting their collective foot down to assure that WSFE officials' outrageous power grab does not go unchecked.

After receiving pleas for help from droves of these workers, the National Right to Work Foundation examined the situation, and agreed to provide them with free legal aid in challenging these egregious on-going violations of their rights.

And so, the Foundation is helping these workers file a class-action civil rights lawsuit today in the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Washington seeking a re-instatement of those workers who have been unlawfully fired for refusal to pay union dues, as well as an injunction blocking further firings.

The workers filing this suit want union officials to honor their basic constitutional due process rights. These protections force union officials to provide workers refraining from formal union membership with an independent audit of the union's expenditures before demanding employees to pay dues.

In earlier cases brought by Foundation attorneys, the U.S. Supreme Court has decreed that this process is necessary to ensure that employees are not paying for activities unrelated to collective bargaining. And there can be no doubt that the WFSE is doing a lot more than just bargaining.

The National Right to Work Foundation is no stranger to the State of Washington. In the late 1990's, the Foundation won the right of teachers statewide to reclaim forced dues averaging \$175 per year.

But the ills caused by compulsory unionism in this state are far from cured. The problem originates with the state legislature, which has imposed forced unionism and all of its bad effects on the state.

Though WFSE officials may believe that they can run roughshod over the rights of rank-and-file state employees, these workers here today have taken a first step towards beating back this vicious assault on their rights, their jobs, and their dignity.

The bosses of the WFSE must get the message: Washington's state employees are not your personal ATMs, and you will not be allowed to violate employees' basic constitutional rights with impunity. That's the message these workers are sending here today, and the National Right to Work Foundation is proud to stand with them.