

National Right to Work  
Foundation Press Conference  
Wednesday, March 15, 2006  
Olympia, WA

### Statement of Maxine Dunkelman

My name is Maxine Dunkelman and I worked for the Washington State Department of Health as a radiation health physicist since 1990. In January, I was terminated because Washington Federation of State Employees union officials told the state to fire me for not paying union fees.

I worked hard and efficiently for the department for 15 years, in a field that has a severe shortage of qualified individuals. I had good relationships with my co-workers, bosses, and licensees, but I just could not force myself to pay the WFSE union fees.

I was fired *not* due to poor work, but because I stood by my principles. I refuse to pay fees because we were told incorrect things about what the contract would mean, what sort of representation we would have, and where our fees would go to. The basis of the amount of the fees was also obscured from us and the union election was anything but free and fair.

In addition, I had observed that the active WFSE union members, during dealings prior to the election, were underhanded and deceitful – both with other employees and with managers. Furthermore, the union appears to desire a confrontational relationship with managers instead of one based on professional communication and relationships.

I take this principled stand against being forced to pay union fees because I am not willing to compromise what I believe is right. I just wish that WFSE union officials had enough respect for the employees they supposedly represent to stop violating our constitutional rights.