

... The 'anti-union' organizers

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or their heirs, such as the Walton Family Foundation, Sarah Scaife Foundation, Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, and the Gilder Foundation.

In its communication with public employees, Freedom Foundation casts itself as their defender: "We're fighting to free thousands of workers from the tyranny and immorality of forced unionization," says one blog post, in a typical example of the group's rhetoric.

Yet the only workers' right that Freedom Foundation works to defend is the right to not pay dues. Meanwhile, the rest of the group's agenda is diametrically opposed to the interests of public employees. At legislatures and in opinion pieces and research papers, Freedom Foundation staff have argued against public employee pensions, flexible schedules, paid sick mandates, and minimum wage increases.

"They hate our agenda and what we're fighting for," says Rebecca Sandoval, a home care

worker and president of Local 503's home care sub-local. "Our agenda is that we are trying to push for a healthy society that works for all people."

Ironically, home care workers — the group the Freedom Foundation has most focused its "drop the union" message on — is arguably the greatest union success story in recent years. When Oregon's SEIU Local 503 began its campaign among home care workers, they made minimum wage, had no employer-provided benefits of any kind, and weren't even considered eligible for workers' compensation if they were injured on the job. Today, after union negotiations and persistent legislative lobbying, they make \$14.65 an hour, are eligible for overtime pay, and have not only workers' comp insurance, but access to health benefits and training.

"Every year the home care budget is on the chopping block," Sandoval said. "But when we walk into the Capitol with the union, our voices are heard."



YOU DIDN'T SEE THIS ON THE TV NEWS: Outside KATU studios on Sandy Boulevard in Northeast Portland, several dozen union members and supporters held a noon hour protest Jan. 27. Demonstrators included camera operators from several unions. The protest was called by IATSE Local 600, which represents 24 workers at KATU who have been working without a contract since October 2015. One sticking point has been the refusal of station owner Sinclair Broadcasting Group to commit to keeping the local studio open and continuing to produce local news. That's a concern because Sinclair is working to get approval for a \$3.9 billion acquisition of Tribune Media Co. which could involve consolidating stations in many local TV markets. At press time, the two sides had no further union bargaining sessions scheduled.



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