



Dear President,

I am writing to alert you to a potential serious threat to our members and organization. The Freedom Foundation (FF) has begun Public Records requests of Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE) member information at numerous colleges and state agencies. ([Click here to see WFSE's press release.](#)) They are seeking personal information, such as dates of birth! While we are not aware of any such requests made for our member information, we must take steps to ensure we at least minimize, and better yet eliminate, the damage done should such requests be made.

To that end, I urge you to modify and send a hard copy of the attached sample letter to the VP of Human Resources, cc'ing the public records officer and the top administrator of your institution. While the employer is not required to inform employees of receipt of a public records request, they often do. Sometimes they inform the union as well. The letter asks them to notify both the employee and the union so that we can effectively represent our members.

Additionally, this attack by the FF is another harsh reminder of the necessity that **union business must not occur on the employer's e-mail system**, other than for information intended for a broad audience, such as meeting notices. If a public records request is made, e-mails including union business will be turned over to the requester. This could be devastating, so I urge you to **reinforce with your officers and members to only use personal e-mail addresses for union business.**

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Karen Strickland'.

Karen Strickland, President
AFT Washington, AFL-CIO