



Membership
Protection Center



ALERT

Americans for Prosperity – New Jersey - My Pay My Say

The Americans for Prosperity – New Jersey has sent mail to members across New Jersey advertising “My Pay, My Say”, a membership-drop campaign orchestrated by The Mackinac Center for Public Policy in Michigan. The mailer says “The Supreme Court has ruled that UNION WORKERS LIKE YOU can keep more of their paychecks”, and includes a tear-off form letter to rescind your union membership. We have received notice of these mailers by members at their homes across the state on August 29, 2018. Other state affiliates around the country report similar communications. We expect to see further communication from AFP-NJ or The Mackinac Center as we enter the beginning of the school year.

What is Americans for Prosperity – New Jersey?

Americans for Prosperity is the grassroots arm of the vast right-wing political network funded by Charles and David Koch. Founded in 2003, AFP has received hundreds of millions of dollars from the Koch Brothers and their allies. In 2016, the most recent year for which records are available, their reported revenue exceeded \$64 million. AFP opposes labor unions, health care reform, and efforts to combat climate change. AFP-NJ is the state chapter of the national organization, and their current State Director is Erica Jedynak.

Why is AFP-NJ promoting “My Pay, My Say”, a project of the Mackinac Center?

In the wake of the Janus v. AFSCME Supreme Court decision, which allows union members to drop out of the union while retaining representation rights, AFP-NJ pledged to partner with the Mackinac Center to convince union members to leave their union and “expand right-to-work protections to all.” AFP-NJ, the Mackinac Center, and dozens of other organizations like them across the country are part of the State Policy Network, a national web of anti-union organizations funded by Betsy DeVos, the Koch Brothers, the Walton family, and many other billionaire-backed special interests.

Are they telling the truth?

Only part of it. Yes, you can choose to stop paying union dues. However, you stand to lose more than you would gain. You would lose individual legal services, like representation in a tenure case, professional liability insurance, access to professional development and advocacy trainings, retirement consultations, and NJEA member benefits discounts. They will tell you about third-party options you can purchase to replace these benefits, but what they don’t tell you is that those companies are being propped up by millions of dollars of funding from the very same groups urging you to leave your union. Furthermore, we have received reports that these companies are not even providing the services that they are fooling people into purchasing.



How did they get my information?

We're not certain. Your personal information is not discoverable through a public records request made to your district or your state, but commercially available data resources make your information available for sale to groups like this. With so much at stake in this fight, our opponents will spare no cost to target you accurately.

What should I do?

Report suspicious activity related to your membership using the Membership Protection Center. Visit www.njea.org/MPC and let us know when you receive communications like this from Americans for Prosperity or any other organizations. This won't be the last you hear from them and they won't be the only one's you'll hear from.

Educate yourself and your colleagues. Make sure that people understand who these groups are and what they're after. When out-of-state billionaires and corporate special interests start to tell you about your rights, it's a safe bet they don't have your best interests at heart. They've bankrolled anti-union court cases for years, they've supported the politicians that dismantle worker protections around the country, and now they're urging YOU to drop your membership. Unionism is the most effective force to propel working people into the middle class. Your union is the only thing standing in the way of their destruction of workers' rights in the name of corporate profit.

Review Open Public Records Act requests in your school district. Ask your business administrator to provide any OPRA requests made for lists of district employees or contact information. Drop us a note at www.njea.org/MPC and let us know who is requesting employee lists in your district. Please provide us with names, organization names, addresses, phone numbers, emails, and any relevant information you discover about the request. This will help us get a clearer picture of what these groups currently have.

