



Michigan Education Association  
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# News Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

### **MEA statement regarding misleading Project Veritas video**

As educators the safety of our students is our top priority. That's why we believe strongly in the responsibility of school employees as mandatory reporters to protect their students.

On Monday, an anti-union group called Project Veritas – which specializes in producing misleading, unethical, undercover videos – released a video that seeks to attack educators and trick the public into believing something that is completely at odds with who we are as educators.

Veritas is Latin for “truth” – but Project Veritas’ tactics are anything but truthful. In fact, they had an operative impersonate an actual MEA member to gain access to a representative, secretly record a 45-minute conversation about a complete lie, and then heavily edited and reordered that conversation in an attempt to put educators in a negative light.

MEA will be assisting our member who was impersonated in investigating legal options available, especially if Project Veritas did anything to steal her identity (MEA is not releasing the member’s name publicly to protect her privacy and guard against any negative consequences from Project Veritas’ agent dragging her good name into their plot). Project Veritas’s disregard for the truth and the law isn’t new -- founder James O’Keefe pled guilty in 2010 to charges related to criminal violations over his illegal tactics.

MEA is conducting a full investigation into this incident and the truth about what was said and in what context. Regardless of context though, we believe no representative should ever insinuate that there is any option other than reporting an incident involving suspected injury or abuse of a child.