

## **Lansing State Journal**

## MEA wastes dues

As a member of the Michigan Education Association, I believe the MEA should disclose how much of the compulsory dues of its members were spent in the MEA's recent attempt to suppress free speech.

The MEA sued the Mackinac Center for Public Policy for merely quoting accurately Lu Battaglieri, president of the MEA, at one of his press conferences. The Mackinac Center even acknowledged in the same document that the MEA "is generally at odds with the Mackinac Center." Thankfully, the Michigan Court of Appeals dismissed the MEA lawsuit because the use of this quote "falls squarely within the protection of the First Amendment for discourse on matters of public interest."

Surely, the educators who lead the MEA could spend their time and my money on better matters than filing frivolous lawsuits aimed at thwarting free speech.

## **Theodore Bolema**

Okemos

ANSING STATE JOURNAL THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2004