What is the real cost of living?

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Abstract

Have you ever wondered why it just keeps getting more and more expensive to live? The price of our food, utilities, and gas for our cars keep going up as well as health care costs and rent. We can hardly live on minimum wage because it doesn’t increase equally to our living costs. Now days there must be two working parents in one home just to live decent. There are single parents out there that must get two jobs just to maintain basic living costs and, yet they are still broke. My argument is the fact that our minimum wage needs to increase just a bit more than our living cost do so that every household doesn’t go with out basic needs and to not struggle. There are families that cannot live off one income because it is simply not enough because child care is so expensive. There needs to be a better way to be able to live with out struggling and I will explain

My issue with this is that we are underpaid if we are not getting paid at least ten percent more that what the cost of living is for that year.

*Key words: Cost of living, minimum wage*

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There have been numerous studies made on the cost of living and why the cost of living goes up but the question I’m asking is why is it going up, but minimum wage is still under the amount that the cost of living is? In an article written in (USA Today, Paul Davidson) explains his research on the issue. Paul explains that back in 2012 minimum wage was raised in seventeen states, the most in six years. Paul has stated that Former president Barack Obama had raised minimum wage from $ 7.25 to $ 9.50. It was also said that small farms are exempt from this regulation. In January 2012 minimum wage rose in eight states as well as the cost of living. In another article written by researcher Richard Waldron and Declan Redmond they explain other issues connect with cost of living and show how stressful it is on home owners. This explains that home owners are suffering foreclosures because of the setback they face because of the economic stress of the high cost of living. The cost of living is not a focus on something small it’s a problem that has a domino effect. If the cost of living goes up five dollars and our minimum wage goes up five dollars where are always going to be struggling. I had interviewed a friend of mine named Andrea and asked simple question about the cost of living and if she was living a comfortable life with the 13.00 dollars she was making. It was obviously above minimum wage, but her answer was no, she was still struggling with two children, a house payment, car payment, and basic utilities like water, gas, sewer, and electric not to mention her student loans. I couldn’t realize all the bills she was paying not to mention child care, I don’t know how she did it. All I know is she was struggling and always late on paying her bills. It was sad to hear not only am I struggling but others are too. In an article on “A note to Hogan” explains the metropolitan in estimates in Arizona for the standard cost of living. Hogan continues to explain how his finding were estimated but no real research was found

in my opinion. I think that we need to find a balance to this economic issue and find out why it’s so unbalanced. I do understand that the cost of living goes up because other things go up but to put residents in a state where there is no room for improvement just gives residents no hope for change and progress.

*COST OF LIVING :Paul Davidson,* [USA Today](javascript:__doLinkPostBack('','mdb~~aph%7C%7Cjdb~~aphjnh%7C%7Css~~JN%20%22USA%20Today%22%7C%7Csl~~jh','');)*. 02/03/2012.*

*“WE’RE JUST EXISTING, NOT LIVING!” MORTGAGE STRESS AND THE CONCEALED* ***COST OF COPING WITH CRISIS.****.*

[Housing Studies](javascript:__doLinkPostBack('','mdb~~aph%7C%7Cjdb~~aphjnh%7C%7Css~~JN%20%22Housing%20Studies%22%7C%7Csl~~jh','');" \o "Search for Housing Studies)*. Jul2017, Vol. 32 Issue 5, p584-612. 29p. 6 Charts, 1 Graph, 1 Map*

*Primary source:( Interview with Andrea, 10,2017)*

*A REPLY TO HOGAN:* [Social Science Quarterly (University of Texas Press)](javascript:__doLinkPostBack('','mdb~~aph%7C%7Cjdb~~aphjnh%7C%7Css~~JN%20%22Social%20Science%20Quarterly%20%28University%20of%20Texas%20Press%29%22%7C%7Csl~~jh','');)*. Jun1983, Vol. 64 Issue 2, p416-417. 2p.*