

In 2016 my husband, developmentally disabled brother and our two children found ourselves facing homelessness due to no fault of our own. The place that we had called home for the better part of ten years closed without notice. We were blessed to be able to live with family however we were at a complete loss as to what our next steps were. As you all know housing prices have sky rocketed over the last five to six years so our budget was almost nothing. We had no savings and no way of knowing what to do next. Luckily we found the most amazing real estate agent. He took us under his wing, gave us all the info we needed to be successful in purchasing a manufactured home within a park. We looked at a few before the perfect one came on the market. We got it for a fair price with a manageable mortgage. The space rent at the time was \$400 dollars. Fast forward 3.5 years and our space rent has gone up \$105 dollars by June we will be expected to pay \$530 a month for the space my home sits.

Now \$530 dollars may not seem like a lot to most people but for us it is manageable. However, at the rate it is going it will soon not be. My husband works full time at one of our local retail stores as a team lead. As for myself I work full time as an in home care worker for the aging and disabled. We have a developmentally disabled adult who lives with us full time, a freshman in high school, a senior at Western Oregon University and a two year old. We are a very busy and for lack of a better term "broke" family. We make ends meet....barely. We are the people who are one tragedy or illness away from homelessness again.

I understand fully that it is the land owners right to raise the rent as they see fit. But shouldn't we get something in return. My soon to be \$530 per month grants me the privilege to keep my home in the place it has been since the day it was built. I get nothing in return. The management and owners have not guaranteed the "renter" anything in return. We do not live in a "safe" neighborhood with added security measures to protect the renters or the owners. We do not have a community space for all residents to enjoy. There are no playgrounds, walking paths, or swimming pools. Hell, it is not even truly safe for our children to play outside or to ride their bikes on the street due to the fact there is no one available or readily protecting our children by enforcing the community speed limits.

I own my house I do not own the land. I am responsible for all maintenance including the carport that I can not take with me should I choose to uproot my house and move it. In return I get to pay an ever growing amount of space rent that virtually has no cap. At the rate this park is increasing their space rent it will soon supersede my mortgage payment. At this time my rent will be more than my mortgage and I still not guaranteed safety, home security or amenities that would warrant such a rate. We chose to live in a manufactured home park because we needed a home but more importantly because this way we could afford to have a home. I am terrified that within a few years that will no longer be the case.