

Hello,

I am a Domestic Violence Advocate and I'd like to tell you the story of a client I worked with a year or two ago. She was an elderly disabled woman who was being harassed by her landlord to the extent that she was considering filing a stalking order against him. She made the mistake of mentioning this to him, hoping it would lead to him backing off and leaving her alone. He instead chose to give her a "no cause eviction." I put her in contact with Legal Aid and a lawyer there was able to get the woman a one month extension due to her age and disability. The end result, however, was still that an elderly disabled woman was forced to deal with the stress of being displaced through no fault of her own in a very competitive and expensive housing market while an abusive landlord got away with mistreating her.

Coincidentally, around the same time one of my coworkers, also a Domestic Violence Advocate, had just moved into a small house on the outskirts of Portland. A month and a half after moving in, hardly enough time to unpack, her new landlord contacted her to let her know he was increasing her rent by 50%. This was prompted by him seeing an ad for a house down the street going for much more than he was charging my coworker and he felt it wasn't "fair" for him to be stuck renting to her for so much less. He seemed to think it was perfectly fair to ask her to either suddenly pay 50% more than she had agreed to or to move for the second time in two months.

Our state is in desperate need of tenant rights reforms and rent control. Please act now or be responsible for the pain and suffering of thousands of families.

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