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This is Phil Arnot for community comment on K INS radio.

As you probably know I have been a supporter of the Pacific legal foundation for many years and in their latest issue dated August 2014 they discuss the shakedown in San Francisco California as it pertains to rental property owners.

The question raised by the foundation is whether or not the bureaucrats can order you to pay huge sums of money to a tenant before you could take a rental unit off the market. Their answer to that question is that common sense and our Constitution would say no.

The Pacific legal foundation has been taking on issues for clients at no charge to them where the issue would involve other people in the community. They recently took on homeowners Dan and Mariah Levin as clients. They live in a small two unit home on Lombard Street, or rather they live in half of the house which is the upper unit. They would like to be able to occupy the whole house but they can't because of a harsh new city law that strips owners like the Levens of the fundamental right to control their own property.

You see a tenant lives in their lower unit and thanks to San Francisco's new relocation assistant payment ordinance, the Levens are prohibited, as a practical matter, from changing that situation and transforming the unit from rental space to living space for themselves and their family. Under the new law San Francisco landlords in order to remove a unit from the rental market have to give the tenant a gigantic payment. The amount of that payment is the difference between the tenants current annual rental payment and the cost of a comparable rental property on the open market. For the Levens, according to the foundation, this would mean that they would have to pay the tenant \$117,000 in order to be able to fully occupy their own home.

Crazy as it may seems, the government calls the payment a relocation payment, but there are no rules on how the tenant can spend the cash. The tenant can use the money for new apartment or note new Porsche.

So the Pacific legal foundation has taken on the case for the Levens and have filed a lawsuit on behalf of the Levens and all San Francisco property owners to overturn this disturbing new law.

I leave you with a point to ponder: don't you think that the Pacific legal foundation is correct when it says that this law is a taking for private gain and not for public use as required by the Fifth Amendment of our Constitution

This is PA for