

[REDACTED]
St. Petersburg, Florida 33710
May 14, 1993

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Mr. Brian Lamb
C-SPAN #650
400 No. Capitol Street N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

Following your program on C-Span today - May 14, 1993 - I managed to copy down your address, although I would have preferred to make contact by phone. Your Friday program is viewed here in St. Petersburg, Florida approximately from 4:30 to 5:30 P.M. One of your guests today was Walter Mears, VP Associated Press.

Possibly none of your guests and/or callers are aware of a 10% penalty apparently still in existence and applied many years ago if the recipient did not apply for Part B at the time of Medicare eligibility. When I became eligible I was on the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and advised to continue that program as a supplement, completely unaware of the penalty. Therefore, my penalty began in 1973, then applied for Part B in 1978 at which time I was so informed. This penalty has continued to this date.

On numerous occasions I have attempted by various sources to resolve this without success, including my Congressman. My most recent communication was to The Retired Officers Association in Alexandria, Virginia, including a copy of an article from their monthly magazine (and a long misplaced copy) in reference to this issue. My Social Security is minimal as I was not covered while in Federal Civil Service as well as in the Army Nurse Corps WW II.

Therefore, as of 12/31/92, the COLA for me went from \$265.00 to \$267.00 and raising the SS deductible to \$51.20 per month amounting to \$614.40 for 1993 or an increase of \$175.20 when compared to the established deductible of \$36.60 per month. With the proposed increases including social security on a \$25,000 income would not affect me but the penalty will continue to increase each year and no doubt decreasing the \$267.00! My question, of course, is why this policy is still in effect for which I have been penalized 15 years. Yet, nobody has attempted to correct this grossly misrepresented issue. I am sure this was not originally an Act of Congress and surely would not require much dispute to eliminate this. I consider this the same as an added tax which I have been paying for 15 years with no change in sight.

I would be interested to know if this has ever been brought to your attention on C-Span or otherwise. In fact, just recently I was told by our Social Security office and by a person in the Congressman's office that this was a life-time policy! I see little rationale in all this except by being a "victim!"

Sincerely,
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[REDACTED]
St. Petersburg, Florida 33710



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