



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL VETERINARIANS

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No COLA could mean a huge increase in Medicare Part B premiums for retired feds: NAFV urges members to take action!

The Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that the 2016 cost-of-living adjustment for federal retirees, military retirees and Social Security beneficiaries is zero. As a result, those who pay their Medicare Part B premiums out of their Civil Service Retirement System annuity are facing a 52% increase in their premiums. The "hold harmless" provision in the Social Security Act states that the dollar increase in the Part B premium is limited to the dollar increase in an individual's Social Security benefit. With no COLA, an estimated 70 percent of beneficiaries will be held harmless, meaning, for most, their Part B premium will remain stable at \$104.90. This leaves 30 percent of beneficiaries, including CSRS retirees who do not receive Social Security benefits, to pay the full cost of the 2016 premium increase, resulting in a projected premium increase of 52 percent, from \$104.90 to \$159.30 per month. In addition, FEHBP premiums also are increasing more than 7 percent for enrollees.

Legislation has been introduced to guarantee that **all** Medicare beneficiaries pay the same Part B premiums in 2016 that they paid in 2015, but
[Congress must hear from you!](#)

Tell your members of Congress that you shouldn't have to pay more in Medicare premiums just because your premiums don't come from Social Security.

Help protect federal retirees! Send an [email](#) now or call the Capitol Switchboard, toll-free, at 1-866-220-0044 to tell Congress to take action on H.R. 3696 and S. 2148 to make sure that **everyone** is held harmless in 2016.