

For the House Taxes Committee --

I am very excited that Matt Norris is presenting a bill to eliminate Medicare from the income definition for the property tax refund. The first year I had Medicare and was completing the MN Property Tax Refund form I had no second thoughts about adding Medicare as income because each month it is taken out of my Social Security check. In other words, I pay for it each month to the Federal Government and it is not income. As a retired person the cost to pay for Medicare, supplemental insurance, prescription insurance, prescriptions and dental is much more than what I had planned on. There are also the unexpected medical bills. The medical and dental are costly for retired people who are on a fixed income.

Because I did not add Medicare as income on my Property Tax Refund I was audited for \$422 with additional interest of \$38 totaling \$460 for the first-year audit of 2019. Since I knew I would be audited for an additional three years and didn't want to pay the interest I contacted the Property Tax Refund Department so I could pre-pay the audit amount for the next three years.

After contacting my Financial Planner to take money out of my retirement account for over \$1600 which I have paid in taxes to the state of Minnesota during my adult life, I was mad. The United States does not treat their senior citizens with thanks or respect. I have worked and paid taxes for all of my adult life and now the state wants me to add something I pay to the Federal Government each month as income. I am not an accountant or a tax person but this does not add up.

Then I contacted Matt Norris and you see the results of our discussions in the bill presented to you today. Where are the retired people that should have brought this up earlier? Obviously they are not paying attention to what is required on the Property Tax Form.

Thank you for wanting to pass this bill so those who are on Medicare have something to smile about from the State of Minnesota. Thanks also to Matt Norris for his time and effort on this bill to help those on Medicare throughout Minnesota.

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