

WHY THE \$200 BILLION DIFFERENCE?

By Woodrow Wilcox

In 2010, the “Obamacare” health care reform law was passed without any serious public scrutiny of the 2000 plus pages. Remember that Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi told Members of Congress that they would learn what was in the bill after they voted for it.

After the bill was passed and Barack Obama signed it, the public was able to start studying it. There were many surprises in the law which never would have been passed if the public had been allowed to study and comment on the bill before the vote.

Democrats have accused Congressman Paul Ryan of wanting to push grandmas in wheelchairs off a cliff by making some reforms with Medicare. But, it was the Democrats lead by Barack Obama, Harry Reid, and Nancy Pelosi who reduced Medicare benefits for senior citizens by over half a trillion dollars. Pelosi confirmed this in an interview on CNBC on October 28, 2011 with Maria Bartiromo which I found on the internet at <http://video.cnbc.com/gallery/?video=3000054002>.

But, the General Accounting Office of the federal government studied the bill for two years and arrived at a different figure. In the last part of July 2012, it reported that the “Obamacare” law actually reduced future Medicare benefits to senior citizens by \$716 billion.

That’s the reason for the difference of over \$200 billion. The half trillion dollar reduction in benefits from the “Obamacare” law was the figure given after a quick study of the law. The \$716 billion dollar figure for reduction of Medicare benefits was the figure found after a two year study of the bill.

In either case, the “Obamacare” law clearly was written to hurt senior citizens who rely on Medicare by reducing benefits to them. Democrats have accused Paul Ryan of wanting to hurt senior citizens with his reform ideas. But, I believe that it is more accurate to say that Obama, Reid, Pelosi, and other Democrats who supported “Obamacare” mugged and robbed every senior citizen in America and everyone who will become a senior citizen in the next forty years.

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