

I am not sure if I am responding to the correct address but here it goes.

I am a social worker in a nursing home that has both skilled nursing and assisted living services. We recently found out that a resident who is in these facilities is unable to obtain coupons for the new convertor boxes for the switchover to digital next year. The reason I was given was because of the multiple dwelling address. I think this is ridiculous. Of all people eligible for the coupons should be our low income elderly. At least 85% of our residents are on some kind of assistance, such as Medical Assistance and SSI. We have very few residents who are private pay. Residents have the option to obtain cable to their rooms if they so choose, the bill that they receive is up to them to pay. On average our residents pay \$30 to \$60 per month for this cable. Of those residents who are receiving assistance they are able to keep only a small amount of money out of their social security and pension checks for personal spending, \$45.00 for skilled nursing and \$70.00 for assisted living. Out of these funds must come not only cable if they want it but telephone, clothes, gifts, and any other personal items they so choose to purchase. These funds do not stretch far! So as you can see many of them can not afford the cable, therefore they rely on their antenna to get the basic channels. On top of that they are not eligible for coupons for convertor boxes and must pay full price for one, this will take some of these individuals whole months spending!! This is an injustice to our elderly just because they have low funding and live in a nursing facility!! Please do what you can to fix this problem for our elderly residents. Thank you.

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