

From: Anonymous  
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Comments:

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Before the deadline imposed by the legislation, a few days ago I received a notice of a substantial increase (now variable based on "prime rate plus") in the APR on my credit card from Chase, which had formerly remained at a constant APR for a decade. Nothing has changed about my financial or employment situation; if anything my unsecured indebtedness (including to Chase) has dropped dramatically. In fact, in their notice, they admit that they are raising the rate due to "new federal laws and regulations". They also cite as a reason "increasing costs" -- which means that they lost some bad bets, for which they took billions of our tax dollars, and they now want more money from customers. The Internet is riddled with blogs filled with similar stories, many of them by customers of other financial institutions which were acquired by Chase. The reason I don't close the account is that it has a sufficiently high credit limit -- due entirely to increases which I did not request -- that doing so would damage my credit score, thanks to the labyrinthine and nonsensical way the FICO score is calculated. The late and much-missed Art Buchwald wrote a column about this in the 1960s wherein he posited that banks are only willing to give loans to people who don't need them.