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Comments Received:

The FBAR filing threshold of \$10,000 is way too low and causes problems for Americans living abroad.

I have a bank account in the country where I live to receive my salary and make local payments. I do not have a high income but often have more than 10k in the account to cover costs associated with the needs/activities of my 5-person family. My FBAR filing requirement has limited my ability to fully engage with my life abroad. If I take on any community role involving signing rights on other bank accounts (such as being a class parent or joining the board of a small non-profit) then I need to report those bank accounts to the IRS along with my own account, even if those other accounts only have a small sum in them. Local associations and banks don't want to deal with the hassle and invasion of fiscal privacy that comes with having a US citizen on the account, so I am excluded from playing those roles.

I understand the FBAR is intended to catch money launderers and to ensure that high net worth Americans are not hiding funds abroad. But the way the system is set up now, it heavily penalizes middle class American workers and families who happen to be living overseas.