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FBAR information collection from U.S. citizens who reside outside the United States is an undue burden due to lack of awareness, confusion of filing requirements, and definitions - even tax professionals aren't aware of the filing requirements, which puts taxpayers at risk of disproportionately high penalties.

This unfair treatment is a symptom of a much larger issue and problem. Why are Americans abroad treated as criminals under the guise of "overseas tax evasion" and money laundering. The IRS recognizes Americans abroad as an underserved community. Surely that would mean that the FBAR is long overdue for review given that it is a massively complicated filing requirement that hasn't changed for over 50 years. Plus, a move towards residency based (like the rest of the civilized world) taxation would relieve the overall cost and burden of tax filing for Americans and Accidental Americans (whose who have never actually lived in the US but American by birth)

Instead of threatening innocent Americans abroad with life-altering penalties and burdensome filing requirements, the Department of Treasury should work with Congress to bring the US into line with the entire rest of the world in the way it taxes its expats. Amen.