Author Full Name: Janet Fabb Received Date: 04/12/2024 08:37 AM

## **Comments Received:**

I am an American (dual national) who has lived in the United Kingdom for over 45 years. I have done my best to accurately file FBARs every year. However, I am now 75 and I am concerned that I will be gradually losing my ability to understand and comply with the requirements. I have tried getting help from a CPA who specialised in Americans filing from abroad, but, even she misread and misunderstood the requirements so I had to cease using her services. I am an ordinary retired person, having spent my career in relatively low paying jobs as a teacher; social worker & social work educator. Now, I live on my pensions. I have worked hard to have money to invest as a nest egg to protect me against future necessary care and treatment. These are not "off shore" investments to me. They are ordinary UK investments which UK residents make. My investments come from my hard earned salary and now from my pensions.

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.

The FBAR exists to catch overseas money laundering, but often ends up ensnaring US citizens abroad who need a basic bank account in order to receive salary, pay their bills, and live a normal life. These aren't money launderers, they're innocent Americans who happen to live abroad. The FBAR should exclude Americans abroad to reduce the signal-to-noise ratio so Treasury can devote its resources to the actual overseas money launders.

Additionally, the extremely low \$10,000 filing threshold has been in place since 1970. It is overdue for an update to at the very least be indexed to inflation, which would be \$79,000 for 2024. Innocent people who go over the threshold as a one-off buying their first home or paying school tuition fees are unaware of the FBAR, don't file, then face risk of penalties. People who have heard of the FBAR are scared to death of doing it incorrectly since instructions are confusing - even tax professionals recommend over-reporting "just in case".

This unfair treatment is a symptom of the overall problem - Americans abroad are treated as collateral damage in the war against 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.

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.

Thank you and please help me and others by relieving us of these excessive burdens.