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Requiring FBAR information from U.S. citizens residing outside the United States is an undue burden as essentially the same information is required in Form 8938 included in the tax return. It is also a burden because of different reporting systems of foreign institutions - eg Securities custodial accounts do not send monthly statements, only the current holdings and value can be accessed on their websites - requiring reconstructing the entire history of equity values through the year to get the "maximum value" of the account.

Even tax professionals aren't aware of the filing requirements, such as for 401k equivalent retirement accounts, which puts taxpayers at risk of disproportionately high penalties - and so they recommend over-reporting, of accounts where again the "maximum value" calculation is a time consuming affair.

The FBAR exists to catch overseas money laundering, but creates unnecessary work for millions of citizens to catch a few - surely the government can find better ways to catch the few.

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 under-served community. 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 with residency based taxation of expats.