Public Comments for ICR 202403-1506-001

Author Full Name: Kacie Perkins Received Date: 04/17/2024 07:25 AM

Comments Received:

I moved to the UK in 2018 to join my husband, a British citizen, so that we could begin our lives together. Since then, the undue burden of US taxation requirements for overseas citizens has colored our entire relationship as we've worried about the potential impact on our joint finances.

I would welcome a change - or ideally an end - to the poorly defined requirements of FBAR information collection from US citizens who reside outside the United States.

The FBAR exists to catch overseas money laundering, but its day-to-day impact is on countless US citizens abroad, like me, who need a basic bank account in order to receive salary, pay their bills, and live a normal life. We're not money launderers, we're just Americans who, for a multitude of reasons, now 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 laundering.

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.