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I remember when I first, after over ten years of living abroad – first as a student and then as a young married woman and struggling freelancer – discovered I had to file an FBAR every year, and that I could get in REALLY BIG TROUBLE if I didn't. It was frankly terrifying... my husband and I (and back then, it was mostly his earnings, and he's not a US citizen) only just scratched the reporting threshold a few times a year, but we were saving up for a down payment on a home, and it all just seemed so terrifying that the IRS might come for me and our hard-earned savings.

Since then, we've had a daughter, who is a citizen, and I groan every time I think about the obligations her passport saddles her with, even if she *never* ends up living in the US – both the annual FBAR and of course the worldwide taxation. It's time to end this for folks who are legitimately living abroad, minding their middle-class business, and not just hiding money in Swiss accounts or posh real estate overseas.

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.