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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.

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.

This punitive and unjust treatment of Americans abroad is what is leading to thousands of US citizens who live abroad to renounce their US citizenship. It is the only way to lead a normal financial life outside of the US. The worst thing about the fact that so many feel they are being forced to renounce is that they are being forced by their own country to do so. Instead of the thousands of ambassadors the US could have living abroad, the renunciants are angry about the unjust treatment and also explain their reasoning to friends, families, colleagues etc. Instead of being ambassadors FOR the US, they are ambassadors AGAINST the US. No other country treats their citizens living abroad so badly - not even Eritrea.

And in typical US fashion, it is not allowed to renounce for tax reasons so when asked for their reason for renouncing, no one can tell the truth. It is because of the punitive and unjust treatment of expats due to citizenship-based taxation. No other country forces their expats to renounce their citizenship just so they can live a normal financial life and save for retirement.