

Author Full Name : Sven Feldmann**Received Date :** 04/29/2024 03:15 AM**Comments Received :**

The FBAR information filing requirement places an undue – and presumably unintended – burden on US citizens abroad. The very low reporting threshold of \$10,000 has not been inflation-adjusted since the 1970s, causing ordinary Americans living abroad to fall under the FBAR requirement as a result of their daily banking activity in their adopted country and by saving for a first home or for retirement.

The regime exposes Americans abroad to excessive and unfairly punitive fines. This creates significant uncertainty and anxiety for the expat community, in addition to a very time-consuming reporting process. The FBAR regime also makes it difficult for many Americans abroad to open or maintain bank accounts for their daily activities as many foreign banks avoid dealing with American citizens due to the reporting requirements on their part.

Is there even evidence that FBAR prevents money laundering or catches criminal activity? Americans abroad bear the burden of this ineffective policy disproportionately and unfairly.

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.