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Concern: individual@finance.senate.gov
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Dear Finance Committee Chairman Senator Orrin Hatch,
Dear Ranking Member Senator Ron Wyden,
Dear Congressional Tax Revision Committee,

Effects of FATCA:
My husband (Dr. Timothy P. Goodman PhD) and I are overseas voters from Ann Arbor, MI. We have lived in Switzerland and worked for the Swiss Federal Poly-technical University (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne –EPFL) for 25 years, making us Swiss federal employees. Swiss financial institutions are turning away American citizens because of the difficulty and expense of complying with FATCA. I work in administration and deal with visiting students for a summer research program. American students are now refused accounts by the Swiss banks. And because of the FATCA rules, we have been required to sign forms authorizing our bank to disclose all financial information to the IRS, or close our accounts.

More recently, T. Rowe Price informed us that we are prohibited from additional purchases or exchanges in our American mutual funds because we are not permanent residents of the US, citing "growing complexity in complying with international regulations and recent changes to federal tax law … with respect to investors residing outside United States". FATCA has had the effect of removing our ability to invest in the US as well as making us American "pariahs" where we live.

Many American citizens face problems abroad that are directly the result of legislation crafted in the United States without taking into account the particular circumstances of overseas Americans. Currently the most harmful for US Americans overseas is **the loss of access to financial services, both at home and abroad, largely due to FATCA**. American entrepreneurs and NGO leaders are becoming unwelcome in joint business ventures and non-profit organizations abroad, etc. As a personal example, as an Elder of the Church of Scotland, my husband has lost the ability to serve our local church community (co-signatory of church accounts for bill paying) because of the way Swiss banks view Americans due to FATCA rules. This type of impact from FATCA is certainly not intentional, but is the reality of the knock-on effects of the legislation.

While we support the US government's efforts to find tax evaders and money launderers who are hiding their money in foreign accounts, we feel that the law as written is very harmful to average US citizens and US interests overseas in general.

Double Taxation:
As residents of Switzerland, we pay Swiss taxes and have filed our US Federal Tax forms including reporting our foreign accounts since we arrived; *however, US taxes have now become so complicated that we must seek tax professionals' help*. (Unfortunately, reports here inform us that the tax professionals are not clear, nor consistent, as to how to comply to US tax laws– adding to our anxiety and confusion.)

Recently, we have been helped to understand that our **Swiss federal pension funds** should be included as income for our US taxes. This additional "income" puts us over the threshold of the foreign income exclusions and foreign tax credit meaning that we are doubled taxed on our pensions, once by the US now and then again by the Swiss when we retire. We understand that Americans who reside in the US do not include their pensions because their pensions are considered "qualified". Also if we lived in Canada, the UK or Belgium, where the pension funds have been deemed as "qualified" by a treaty, we would not be required to include our pensions as income. Our understanding is that no one has yet investigated the Swiss pensions to see if they would be considered "qualified" by US standards so we are required to include our pensions as

income and pay double taxes. *This needs to be normalized so that all Americans whether living at home or abroad, are taxed equitably.* Double taxation is unfair and goes against American principles.

Ineligibility for US tax deductions for university tuition:
In addition to the trouble caused by FATCA and double taxation, the high cost of living in Switzerland is not taken into consideration by the US tax laws. This year, we will have 2 children attending US universities, paying out-of-state tuition for both and we will not receive any deduction in our US taxes because our combined Swiss salary is over the limit of eligibility. However, if the Swiss cost of living were somewhere included in the calculation, the real burden of double out-of-state tuition would be recognized and we would be treated more fairly by the tax regulations.

We need your help.

As I'm sure you know, according to State Department estimates, there are **7.6 million Americans living and working around the globe.** The vast majority of these people are law-abiding citizens who feel strong ties to their homeland and serve as *unofficial* ambassadors for the United States; its goods and services and Universities around the globe.

I am writing you in hopes that you will help overseas Americans by supporting legislation that takes into consideration the plight of our many citizens abroad.

As an American citizen, I strongly urge you to consider these possible solutions:

1. Support current legislation introduced by Rand Paul (S.663) to repeal the Foreign account Tax Compliance Act
2. Support Residence-Based Taxation when tax reform is reviewed in Congress, or
3. Support a definition of "foreign" in Treasury and IRS regulations which excludes financial accounts already reported in the country of bona fide residence.
4. Support a general and complete IRS amnesty for a limited period of time to allow the *non-willful* non-compliant US taxpayer to enter the system without fear of penalties.

With your help, I look forward to a more fair treatment of American citizens abroad by the American tax laws.

Sincerely,

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