Daniel Keller

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Switzerland

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April 14, 2015

Dear Senate Working Group:

Please consider removing the onerous duty of double-reporting and levying of taxes for Americans living overseas.

I am a scientist living in Switzerland. As an American, every year I must file two tax returns, one for Switzerland and one for the States. Other scientists I know who are citizens of other countries and who work here are not compelled to file a double report, as their native lands consider paying taxes to the country they actually reside in to be sufficient and fair. Consequently, they do not have to spend an extra weekend per year wading through reams of arcane paperwork.

Additionally, my salary is such that I am slightly past the limit for paying double taxes, and so I am in effect taxed twice. While I understand that the intent of this cutoff was intended to tax the rich, the cost of living in Switzerland is so high that I am hardly rich. I can afford a modest apartment and have nowhere near the material quality of life that I had in the States on a salary that was much lower in absolute terms. I want to pay my fair share in taxes, but since I live abroad and do not benefit in any practical way from paying double taxes to the States this cannot possibly be fair.

The USA stands for freedom and fairness, and I am writing you in the hopes that the process of representative government can work to fix a process that is clearly broken. I know that freedom isn't free, but it should at least be fair.

Sincerely,

Daniel Keller