From: Elizabeth L. Resch
[redacted]

Re: Americans residing overseas and USA tax compliance and forms to be done

I am the mother of an American residing in Switzerland, and the grandmother of two dual citizen grandchildren. I frequently travel so see them, and am very aware of the difficulties in being an American abroad.

My daughter did not move to Switzerland to avoid taxes, nor was she wealthy when she went. She had college loans to pay at the time since as a widow, I could not afford her full tuition. As an American CPA she was sent at age 25 by PricewaterhouseCoopers to work on something at Novartis in Basel. She met her Swiss husband on the job. He was not brought up in a wealthy family either, and his mother is also a widow. These facts defy the popular notion of rich people residing in Switzerland with secret bank accounts.

At times, I have brought my daughter's American tax returns back with me to mail here. They are many many pages long and weight a lot. I can not imagine having to do that much. As a CPA my daughter still hires someone to complete them as they are so complex and time consuming. TurboTax does not work!

The Swiss economy is different than ours. A simple Cape Cod house is worth perhaps $200,000 here. There something of the same size costs over 1,000,000 CHF. Pension Funds are required, but do not mesh with our 401 type account. Medical insurance is not provided by employers, but must be purchased by each individual. These, and other differences create problems with fair amounts being collected on USA tax returns. We really need **taxes to be residency based** and not complicated by two systems needing pages of burdensome information, and often resulting in unfair taxes. At the moment all the USA provides for my daughter is a passport and she pays the cost of renewal.

Their bank accounts in Switzerland are not "foreign" to them, but rather their every day accounts. It broke my heart when the boys other grandmother was unable to open tiny saving accounts for them as she did for her other grandchildren. She was not allowed because they are American. Why can I open accounts here, when she can't there? Same country accounts should not be considered foreign for FACTA reporting.

We basically need to stop demonizing the idea of living abroad. A healthy global economy for the USA needs Americans who are abroad, and work abroad whether for a short term assignment or permanently. I am so aware of this every time someone makes negative comments about my daughter not living here.

Please work to make the financial situation of Americans abroad the same as for those here, and not burdensome as it presently is. Thank you.