[redacted]

March 22, 2015

Dear U.S. Senate,

Being an Expat for the past 6 years in Germany, has allowed for me to live a life that has taught me so much about the world. It has been a beautiful experience, learning about the world, cultures, and truly an experience that I wish to continue. However, living abroad as an American has made certain life circumstances, frustrating, infuriating, and overall disappointing. I am proud to be an American, and I have supported more than my fair share family members through war and being part of the military. Even to this very day, I am still supporting family members suffering from PTSD.

Trying to make sure I make my college loans payments is another struggle, which has been an expensive process to transfer money every month, to pay for my loans. This is also a burden that I have to put on my family members. I support a change in this system, as I know I can't be the only one that has so much trouble trying to find a way to pay back my student loans.

Then on top of that I have to worry that I have to file my taxes and claim money that does not belong to the United States!? I work hard for the money I earn, I don't earn much, and I have to spend money every year to pay to file my taxes in a country I am not living in? WHY? The United States is one of the only countries to require their citizens to file taxes while living abroad.

I fully support changing the U.S. Federal tax system to a residency- rather than citizenship-based system for individuals. I support for a same-country exception when reporting "foreign" bank account under Fatca.

Filing my American and German taxes costs me a lot of money each year, and for what? I don't and will never come close to the $90,000 mark, which will never effect me filing taxes in the U.S. This is double taxation and excessive reporting, especially of my pension. I deserve to be able to have a retirement without having it taxed, by both countries.

My plea is for equality and justice I don't think is uncalled for. Please consider changing the definition of a U.S. person in section 7701(a)(30) of the federal tax code. By changing the definition of a U.S. person for tax purposes in the code you would provide a lot of overseas Americans with tremendous relief.

By doing this, I also believe the amount of Americans denouncing their citizen will decline.

My point is not to degrade or belittle my country but to make it easier and less burdensome on the people living abroad. Thank you for taking the time to consider and be understanding of the fact that American living abroad have a lot on their plate and your support will help to relieve some of the burden. There are so many factors when it comes to living abroad, and any relief would be more than appreciated especially the support from the government.

Thank you for your help and support. I look forward to a change that is for the people and by the people.

With Proactive Thoughts for a Bright Future,
Kimberly Vangol