March 26, 2015

To whom it may concern,

I am a United States citizen living and working abroad and I think the current U.S. tax law for citizens who neither work nor live in the U.S. to be repressive. We have no income in the U.S. but have to do complicated tax reporting about the accounts and income we have in the country we live in. We have to do the same amount of work as folks living and working in the U.S. But why? The extremely high penalty fees that one can incur for forgetting to declare a small account (such as a grocery card with a cash value) are quite disconcerting and disproportionate. The fear of accidentally incurring such a fee is very stressful. It only takes me about thirty minutes total to declare and pay taxes in the country where I live and work. I am very lucky that my husband takes care of most of the work on our U.S. taxes but it is very frustrating to witness the estimated 20-25 hours he has to spend every spring on this task.

I would really appreciate a simpler declaration for U.S. citizens living and working abroad.

Sincerely,
Melinda Beth Alfredéen
[redacted]