Nora Shulman
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Toronto, Ontario
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[redacted]
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Dear Sirs/Madams,

I am writing as a expatriate private citizen to add my voice to the calls for tax reform especially as it relates to Americans who reside abroad.
This is my 40th year living in Canada. I don't expect to return to the United States to live permanently.

Americans abroad are getting the short end of the tax stick. We face extraordinary costs to be compliant with US tax requirements. My US return is roughly double the cost of my Canadian return-last year I paid around $5000.00 for the tax returns for myself and my two children. Accounting fees are my greatest expense.

I spend a disproportionate time organizing financial disclosure to satisfy the US requirements. I have foreign bank accounts solely because I am resident in a foreign country.

If there is an error in my reporting, I potentially face ruinous fines.
I cannot deduct my mortgage, but must pay capital gains on the sale of my home.
I can be hurt further financially depending on the variability of the exchange rate.
I cannot purchase certain investment products or take advantage of the Canadian tax free savings program due to the cost of filing the US returns that are necessary for these vehicles.
I have also been subject to double tax. (remember the Boston Tea Party?)
I have separated myself financially from my Canadian husband to protect his privacy and to protect his assets from being entwined in US taxes. This has created stress both financial and personal.
I am worried that my retirement savings will be negatively affected by US tax law.

I am and will continue to be a compliant tax payer, but I am bitter and upset about the loss of privacy and outflow of significant money necessary for this compliance.

It is time to embrace taxation based on residence.

Thank you for your attention,

Nora Shulman