

Dear Rep Adrian Smith and Rep John Larson,

I am writing to ask that the Financial Services Tax Committee of the Ways & Means Committee for Tax Reform to repeal or revise the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) that is destroying the community of Americans working overseas.

As one of nearly 7 million American citizens living, working and voting from abroad, and contributing to the economic growth of the U.S. economy, FATCA legislation along with FBAR (Foreign Bank Account Report) is having serious negative consequences for those of us working abroad and for the US economy.

American citizens have become pariahs in the international financial community because of FATCA and are being denied financial tools essential for survival.

Business opportunities for Americans overseas are blocked due to the 10% American ownership reporting threshold for start-ups and business ventures

Foreigners are backing away from investments in the US due to the increased oversight, risks and dangers of financial reporting in the United States

FATCA creates a new barrier to U.S. exports as companies, start ups are loath to hire Americans or deal with Americans due to increased exposure to the IRS/Treasury and reporting requirements

FATCA creates systemic risks for the entire international financial community

FATCA puts Americans working overseas at personal and financial risk due to unsecured data transfer of highly sensitive financial and personal information.

I have been personally affected by this situation in terms of retirement planning. My situation may not be one of huge economic impact for American investment, but it means that I now have to look towards my retirement without being able to responsibly prepare for it. I was advised by a financial planner to consolidate my IRA and Roth funds which were gained working prior to leaving the US and then to declare my foreign income so that I could invest my annual \$5000 from legally taxed income. Apparently I did not get or understand the whole picture as when I did all of this and submitted my information to an accountant specialized in expat taxes I was told I could not legally do this as I would need to file jointly with my husband and he, a Finnish citizen, would need to declare all of his income to the US. You can imagine our surprise and dismay at this news. I have had the contribution refunded and will continue to look at how I can do this legally but this has been quite a time consuming and stressful year in trying to figure out how to prepare responsibly and legally for my retirement. This is completely unfair to normal working people. *I can be reached at: Solvikinkatu 13 A 13, Helsinki, Finland 00990, finnishsnowqueen@yahoo.com, +358505229883*

Please repeal or revise FATCA and please seriously consider the RBT proposal submitted by American Citizens Abroad (ACA). A move towards a residence-based system, like the rest of the world, would resolve the issues of FATCA and FBAR while creating a simpler and fairer system for Americans living abroad and increasing more tax revenue than the current system, which wastes compliance resources for very little return.

Yours sincerely,
Leigh Anne Rauhala