

## Make A Difference!

### **Support H.R. 5935 *To Repeal The Violation of Sovereign Nation's Laws and Privacy Matters***

Americans abroad face onerous Internal Revenue Code compliance laws that undermine their livelihood and wellbeing.

What's at stake:

- Loss of banking services in the U.S. and abroad
  - Excessive tax filing expenses
  - Double taxation
  - Loss of job competitiveness
  - Loss of banking privacy
  - Substantial penalties for minor filing infractions
  - Loss of privacy
  - Financial armageddon
- 

Pending House legislation:

House Bill: [H.R. 5935](#) *To repeal the violation of sovereign nations' laws and privacy matters*

Sponsor: Rep Mark Meadows (R NC)  
Cosponsors: Rep Mick Mulvaney (R SC)  
Rep Jeff Duncan (R SC)  
Rep David Schweikert (R AZ)  
Rep Mark Sanford (R SC)

Committee: House - Ways and Means

---

Please send your elected officials in the House an email today! See suggested letter below.

Send your email to:

<http://letter2congress.rallycongress.com/698/>

Note - you must use a stateside address. You can use your last known address.

## Sample Letter To Your House Representative In Congress:

---

Subject: **Support H.R. 5935 To Repeal The Violation of Sovereign Nation's Laws and Privacy Matters**

I am writing to urge you to back Rep Mark Meadows (NC) bill **H.R. 5935 To repeal the violation of sovereign nations' laws and privacy matters** and approve it this year.

As you are aware millions of Americans abroad are being treated in an unfair and in an undignified manner as a result of U.S. extraterritorial tax law. It obliterates the centuries old practice of sovereigns refusing to enforce revenue laws of foreign sovereigns (i.e. Boston Tea Party). The consequence of such trampling of established norms has put countless American lives at risk.

What we view as local assets the U.S. tax code characterizes them as foreign subject to taxation. We abide by the laws where we live which means we must file income taxes locally. This burden is enough yet the U.S. tax code subjects us to additional filing requirements regardless of where we live. As a result, our tax filing costs have gone up astronomically in recent years and not a dime of it goes to the Treasury.

Many Americans abroad were not aware they were Americans and never filed U.S. taxes. As a result of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) and Citizenship Based Taxation (CBT) the tax code is treating these people as non-compliant and is demanding back taxes with oversized penalties. They were never warned about their tax filing requirements and were not prepared for the burdens of having to comply. To make matters worse, the law treats overseas pensions as income subject to taxation - even when there are tax treaties in place. Many of us face financial ruin.

We are also confronted with restricted banking services. Overseas banks see us as high risk because of the imposition of a 30% withholding of funds if they are found not to be FATCA compliant and are wary of the unsettling implications of what might happen next. They fear tax laws could change retrospectively.

We also face a double whammy from our U.S. based banks. They shut us out of numerous financial services because they do not want the added burden of reciprocal tax reporting. As you can see sound financial planning is next to impossible for millions of Americans.

Minor tax filing infractions are excessively punitive because the tax code views 'foreign' individual accounts as something 'bad' and 'unlawful' and to be treated with extreme prejudice. For instance, during an IRS 2014 audit it was revealed an overseas account was assessed a penalty of over 300% with a value of \$54,000.

It is no secret tax legislatures made a conscientious effort to shift tax collection away from U.S. corporations and onto the backs of Americans abroad. The IRS regularly issues warnings about the reduction of audits due to budget constraints, but turns around and brags about progress in bringing billions of dollars to U.S. coffers by way of OVDP (FATCA) compliance. Ironically, the FATCA authors determined it was better policy to add \$400 to \$700 million to annual tax collections through FATCA when there were much larger sources of offshore revenue streams. (i.e. Apple's billions of dollars in profits socked away in tax shelters around the world - all untaxed.)

The most reprehensible aspect for the hunt for overseas money is that we are being tied to bad actors - inferring we do not have rights like the rest of Americans so Constitutional protections can be ignored. The Treasury confirmed as much in a letter to Senator Ron Wyden (Oregon) this year. The letter highlights our data is being shared across multiple departments - without evidence of wrongdoing - at the federal and state level. And it adds the database is used to find links to terrorism and money laundering. Not every overseas tax filer is a terrorist nor a tax evader.

Unsurprisingly, a record number of Americans are renouncing their citizenship because it is too heavy a burden to keep. To escape double taxation and to avoid tax filing pitfalls millions will have no choice but to say goodbye. This should alarm our elected officials in Washington.

We are not tax cheats nor are we trying to hide anything. We are trying to get by like everyone else. Every American, no matter where they live, should have a sense they are protected and are not being preyed upon by our government.

To help us out and to let us to get our lives back on track I am asking you to please to do all you can to approve Rep Mark Meadows H.R. 4935 bill this year.