31 March, 2015

To: Bipartisan Tax Working Group

From: David Gough – US Citizen living and working in Switzerland

As an expat living and working in Switzerland for the past 5 years, I implore the bipartisan tax working group to consider expat US citizens living abroad as a group that is taxed without representation. As I understand there are 7 million plus US citizens living and working overseas as expats and we as a group have no recourse to voice our issues through a representative in our government.

In addition, I value highly my citizenship and would never consider renouncing, however I do understand why some feel compelled to give up their US citizenship due to the heavy tax burden. I realize as a US citizen there are costs associated with managing and staffing embassies around the world, and I am glad to have an embassy nearby I can access. However, this is the only benefit my tax dollars deliver. I receive none of the services or programs my taxes fund in the US. I am taxed on earnings in a foreign country and I work for an organization that is not affiliated in any way with a US firm or government organization.

My proposal is simple, give me a number. I will be happy to pay my fair share to ensure that I can carry a US Passport and that our embassies provide much needed services to US citizens in foreign countries. I however fail to see how taxation based upon my earnings in a foreign country has anything to do with the management and staffing of State Department services. Again, I will be happy to pay a fee to carry a US passport and have access to our embassies. Just give me a number.

Taxation should be based upon residency, not upon citizenship. Let the US join the majority of the rest of the world other than Singapore and Eritrea that tax their citizens who earn foreign income based on residency, not citizenship.

I intend to work hard, save and eventually retire in the U.S. where I will spend my money and pay local, state and federal taxes. Until then, I should not have to carry the burden of double taxation. And yes, I am double taxed over and above the foreign earned income tax credit. Simply not right.

Regards,

David Gough

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