



DEMOCRATS ABROAD

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
2309 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
2132 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
1401 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Keating
2351 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

March 1, 2019

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Representatives Neal, Lofgren, Nadler, and Keating,
re: In support of a remedy for "Accidental Americans"

Democrats Abroad acts as the Democratic voice of all Americans abroad. The community of Americans abroad is as diverse in age, economic status, race, marital status, sexual identity and political persuasion as any other American community.

Uniquely, however, the community of Americans abroad also includes a cohort of U.S. citizens who have little or no connection to the United States other than by accident of birth - "Accidental Americans." Having no association or affiliation with U.S. culture or identity, nor a desire to maintain such artificial and bureaucratic ties, Accidental Americans ("Accidentals") bear the consequences of a citizenship condition that Democrats and Republicans alike agree was not of their making.

As U.S. citizens, Accidentals have U.S. tax filing and financial account reporting obligations. As the U.S. is the only country bar one (Eritrea) that taxes its citizens on their non-U.S. income even when they are living, working and facing taxation in the country where they reside, most Accidentals have no idea they have this obligation, are breaking the law for not complying with it and are subjecting themselves to significant financial penalties without even realizing it.

Democrats Abroad
PO Box 15130
Washington, DC 20003
USA

DemocratsAbroad.org
VoteFromAbroad.org

Problems with voting overseas?
help@VoteFromAbroad.org

DA Executive Committee:

Chair, Julia Bryan
Chair@DemocratsAbroad.org

Vice Chair, Alex Montgomery
Vice-Chair@DemocratsAbroad.org

Treasurer, Lissette Wright
Treasurer@DemocratsAbroad.org

Secretary, Jeffrey Cheng
Secretary@DemocratsAbroad.org

Legal Counsel, Tom Schmid
Counsel@DemocratsAbroad.org

RVC Asia-Pacific, Kat Allikian
RVC-AP@DemocratsAbroad.org

RVC Americas, Jody Quinnell
RVC-Americas@DemocratsAbroad.org

RVC EMEA, Will Bakker
RVC-EMEA@DemocratsAbroad.org

Democrats Abroad acknowledges that the only remedy on offer to Accidentals currently requires them to incur significant effort and considerable, material cost to renounce their American citizenship. This is a requirement no other nation on Earth imposes.

As an oft-forgotten constituency in policymaking, Democrats Abroad takes an interest in all Americans living abroad: those who are living abroad temporarily; those who are living abroad indefinitely; and those whose lives have always been firmly rooted in countries other than the U.S. While we cherish our U.S. citizenship and remain committed to the ideals and values of our country, we support policies that free and empower Americans to make responsible migration and citizenship decisions in the interest of themselves and their families. Democrats Abroad supports a citizenship renunciation remedy for Accidental Americans consistent with this view and we stand with Accidental Americans in their endeavor to secure one.

Sincerely,
Julia Bryan
International Chair
Democrats Abroad
chair@democratsabroad.org
Phone +420 603 447 070