

Tax Reform in 2017 is done

At this stage there has been no shortage of reporting on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. You can read about what's in it [here](#) and perhaps establish how it will impact you [here](#). Or not, since the provisions of the tax code impacting Americans abroad set up a different set of rules for us. American Citizens Abroad, our colleague organization fighting for reforms to laws and regulations that harm Americans abroad, has published a [preliminary statement](#) on the act as it generally impacts Americans abroad.

Through our lobbying on Capitol Hill we have identified a group of lawmakers who we think will go to bat for us when we try again in 2018 to reform the way Americans abroad are taxed. We hope you will again work beside us.

Rep Dina Titus and Rep Jamie Raskin go on record supporting tax reform for Americans abroad

Rep Dina Titus (D-NV) has been a great friend of Democrats Abroad for many years. We have always received a warm reception in her office and she has supported our work to reform tax, voting, citizenship and other matters that seriously impact Americans abroad. We are delighted and grateful for [her statements in the Congressional Record drawing attention to the need for tax reform for Americans abroad](#).

Rep Jamie Raskin (D-MD), a former member of DA France, has also placed [remarks in the Congressional Record in support of tax reform for Americans abroad](#). We are so pleased for his support and grateful for his ongoing engagement with Democrats Abroad.

FATCA Repeal lawsuit promoters make an application to the Supreme Court

As noted earlier this year, the lawsuit brought by Citizens United lawyer Jim Bopp on behalf of 7 Americans including Senator Rand Paul challenging the constitutionality of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act was rejected by the Sixth Circuit court of Appeals for lack of standing. The lawsuit proponents are now asking the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case. The Taxation Task Force does not believe their request will be granted but we will, again, be watching the case very closely.

A 2018 Tax Bill to fix the 2017 Tax Bill

A very small team of Republican tax writers worked behind closed doors for just a few months to prepare the bill just voted by Congress into law. It is therefore no surprise that those at the IRS charged with implementing the bill [have a lot of work to do before the provisions can be implemented](#). Furthermore tax lawyers, policy analysts and return preparers warn the bill contains changes to business deductions that could result in a lot of aggressive tax structuring and unintended consequences. These will require the GOP-controlled Congress to [pass another bill to fix the mistakes](#). Incompetence by the GOP tax writers may result in another opportunity for Democrats Abroad and other groups representing Americans abroad to lobby for further reforms, including Residency Based Taxation. We will certainly keep you apprised.

We go back to the drawing board

The Taxation Task Force will be taking a well-earned break over the holidays but we are already thinking about what our 2018 tax advocacy strategy should look like. We're going back to the drawing board, starting with a clean sheet of paper and re-building our program of initiatives – including both grassroots campaigns and Capitol Hill advocacy.

Questions or Comments

As always, we welcome your questions and comments. Please contact us on taxationtf@democratsabroad.org