**Model letter for family and friends in the United States in support of HR 3078,**

**the Commission on Americans Abroad Act of 2015**

*Find your Representative’s contact information at* [*www.house.gov*](http://www.house.gov)

*Email is fine but a “snail mail” letter will get even more attention.*

*Address your letter to: The Honorable (your Representative)*

*Adapt the letter below as you like or send it as is. Adding a personal story about your family member or friend abroad is always a plus!*

*Be sure to give your voting address!*

Dear Representative (enter the name of your Representative),

I am a constituent of yours and have a (friend, son, niece, etc.) currently living in (friend/relative’s host country). Today I am writing to urge your support for HR 3078, calling for the creation of a bipartisan federal commission to study the impact of government policies on Americans living and working abroad and to make recommendations to Congress to improve drafting and implementation of policies concerning the overseas population.

According to the State Department, there are some *8.7 million Americans living and working abroad (equal in numbers to the 12th state!)*, estimated by the Federal Voting Assistance Program to account for *over 3% of the vote* in the United States. Though they are unofficial ambassadors for our country, its businesses and services, they all too often suffer the unintended consequences of laws enacted without taking them into consideration: difficulties in transmitting their U.S. citizenship, a prohibitive double tax liability that makes them uncompetitive in international markets, barriers to access to financial services both in the United States and abroad…

In the words of Carolyn Maloney, original sponsor of HR 3078, “Americans living and working overseas constitute a kind of unsung constituency. They pay taxes and vote, but U.S. policies can have unintended and sometimes irrational consequences on their lives… It is time we acquire a thorough, comprehensive understanding of the federal policy impacts on these Americans, which this bill would provide.”

As your constituent, I strongly encourage you to look at HR 3078 and consider co-sponsoring it, demonstrating your support for America’s important global community.

Yours sincerely,

(your name)

(your voting address)