

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2013

Respond to the concerns of our constituents abroad!

Cosponsor the *Commission on Americans Living Abroad Act* (HR 597)

Dear Colleague:

Five years ago the Congressional Americans Abroad Caucus was formed to focus and bring awareness to the concerns of the 4-6 million U.S. citizens residing abroad. We know how hard it can be for Americans living abroad to get the attention of Congress. U.S. citizens are Americans regardless of where they reside and should not be ignored.

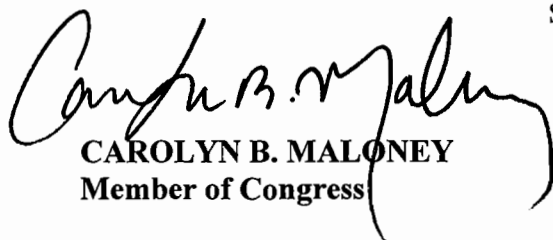
As you may know, many of our constituents living abroad often have to struggle to have their representatives in Congress hear their voices. Constituent letters with foreign addresses are often quickly discarded or forwarded even when the text of the letter explains that they are in fact, constituents. These citizens living and working outside the U.S. continue to voice concerns regarding the impact of federal policies on immigration, taxation, voting, and access to financial institutions. Given that these and other federal policies affecting Americans abroad cover an array of agencies, we should study the full impact of these policies on the overseas community.


That is why we are introducing the Commission on Americans Living Abroad Act (HR 597), creating an Executive Commission expressly charged with examining the concerns of U.S. citizens living and working abroad. This Act creates a 15 member panel to study the impact of Executive actions and U.S. laws on the Americans living and working abroad. The study would then be used to make recommendations for actions Congress and the Executive Branch could take to improve collaboration and communication of policies impacting the community.

It's time we take a look at the issues affecting our citizens living abroad. Through our commission's study we can better ensure awareness, coordination, and integration of the activities of the federal government relating to Americans abroad. We can establish the state of policies and rules affecting Americans abroad so we can better serve their needs as they live and work in our global economy.

For more information on this Act or to join the Americans Abroad Caucus, please contact Elizabeth Darnall with Representative Maloney at x5-7944.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress


MICHAEL M. HONDA
Member of Congress