

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 27, 2009

The Honorable Timothy Geithner  
Secretary  
United States Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Geithner,

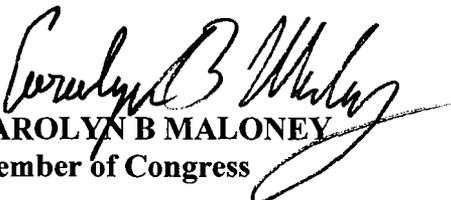
As co-chairs of the Americans Abroad Caucus, we are very concerned about reports of American citizens living abroad being denied access to United States banks.

According to organizations representing Americans living abroad that we work with, a large number of American citizens residing abroad have been denied accounts with American banks. The banks involved reportedly attribute their activities to the "Know Your Customer" requirements of the Patriot Act. It is our view that neither the Patriot Act nor the regulations thereunder should preclude an American citizen living abroad from having an account with an American bank. While we obviously want banks to do their due diligence, we certainly do not want wholesale bank discontinuance for American citizens living abroad.

Moreover, reports have been coming in that foreign banks, particularly British banks are refusing American clients if the new measures proposed for the Qualified Intermediary rules are adopted as expected on January 1, 2010. We support the goals of fighting tax evasion, but we are concerned that if Qualified Intermediary account rules are extended to cash accounts then taxpaying Americans living abroad will have no place to bank.

These two banking issues could create a double squeeze on the financial services available to Americans abroad. If neither foreign nor American banks will take American customers, how will the millions of citizens living abroad bank? What should we tell our constituents who ask us this question? We would like to know what steps your office will take to ensure that taxpaying American citizens overseas will be able to use banking services. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

  
**CAROLYN B MALONEY**  
Member of Congress

  
**JOE WILSON**  
Member of Congress