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Subcommittee on Social Security
Ways and Means Committee
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC
(sent by email attachment)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I write to urge you to keep the Social Security Death Master File available for public access for important legitimate purposes, such as genealogy, heirship determination, and family medical history. I write from the perspective of a professional genealogical researcher with over 25 years experience who is also a Certified Genealogist,SM a fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, and an active member of several regional and local genealogical and historical societies.

In my opinion, the Death Master File is a resource intended to help **prevent** identity fraud, not to facilitate it. Closing its availability to legitimate uses will have no beneficial effect and will only prevent those legitimate users, including myself, from making the proper relationship determinations that are essential to their genealogical or family history endeavors. I heartily endorse the comments provided by the Records Preservation and Access Committee in their draft document of 24 January 2012.

I appreciate your consideration of these comments. I am representing myself in this letter and my personal contact information is in the above header. I am also an active member and/or associate of the following organizations:

Board for Certification of Genealogists (associate)
American Society of Genealogists (fellow)
Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council (member)
New England Historic Genealogical Society (member)
New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (member)
Connecticut Ancestry Society (member)
++ Numerous other local historical and genealogical societies

Sincerely,

Frederick C. Hart Jr., CG, FASG