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Title of Hearing : **Chairman Johnson Announces a Hearing on Social Security's Death Records**

Dear Senators:

Please do not restrict or close the Social Security Death Index from public access. Many states (including North Carolina, where I reside) have public indexes, with links to copies of the original underlying public vital records. This allows individuals the means to document their own personal history.

In North Carolina, for instance, **all** birth, marriage, and death records are **public documents**. Death certificates, which can be accessed online instantly through fee-paid entities (ie/ Ancestry.com and Archives.com), or obtained in person at the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, have the deceased individual's Social Security number displayed.

North Carolina is the 10th most populated state, and is not alone in recognizing that citizens have the right to access personal identifying information. The SSDI allows individuals to obtain this information regardless of an individual's last place of residence. Closing the SSDI will impact my ability to assist a client in tracing their family history.

Once again, please keep the SSDI a matter of public record.

Respectfully submitted,

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