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I'd like to submit a statement for the Death Records Hearing. As a family genealogist and a workshop leader in genealogy, the Social Security Death Index has been a valuable tool in pursuing relatives who have passed on. While I understand the issues with fraud, I would assume with technology, there could be blocks on particular numbers. The SSDI is a valuable tool for genealogist and one of the only tools to find relatives who have passed on in the 20th century. People have moved from their hometowns starting around WWI and the SSDI which begins in 1932 helps tremendously in searching for relatives. Sometimes you need to find a technology work around versus just closing down the SSDI to the public.

I would hope that you would take my thoughts into consideration as you did not allow representatives from the National Genealogical Society to speak. Why would you ignore a portion of the population.

Joette Kunse