

Comments on **Chairman Johnson Announces a Hearing on Social Security's Death Records**

Eliminating this important data would have a lot of detrimental effects in my opinion.

While I do not use this data daily it was quite important for me personally in trying to find out where and when my grandfather passed away. He had simply left town many years previously and without this resource we would have had no clue if he was alive or not. Because of this data we found out not only when he passed but where.

Another positive use of the death information is to prevent a grieving spouse or family member from receiving unwanted correspondence. Many companies and non profits alike do not want to mail or correspond with a deceased person. The costs to businesses and non profits alike would be high and get higher each and every year. The feelings of the deceased spouse receiving the continued reminder that a loved one has passed also need to be considered. Mail is only going to get more expensive as well. Most of the recently deceased are by and large not as technically literate as the younger generation so mail is still the overwhelming choice of seniors.

Folks like my sister enjoy doing family research and doing family trees and there are a lot of them who use this data, so this would also negatively harm all these folks who enjoy this pastime.

I cannot condone identity theft certainly and applaud efforts to stop it. This bill would hurt a lot of legitimate and honest uses of the data because of the actions of a few. There must be some alternatives technically speaking and I cannot help but feel our technical gurus could figure out something in lieu of this rather draconian approach. Thanks for your consideration.

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