

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012

To: Committee on Ways and Means

From: Jay Johnson, mother of a deceased 5 year old DIPG Child  
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408-655-2817  
email: jayrjohnson#@yahoo.com  
Hearing: HR 3475

There are many cruel things that come with pediatric cancer. There are hours of treatment, which includes radiation and chemotherapy. Watching your child bravely deal with those treatments and their cruel side effects is heartbreaking. There are the missed hours at school, hours a child should be playing and being with their friends. There is the cruelty of a child suffering the effects of brain tumor, specifically this one, such as loss of motor abilities while retaining a sharp cognition. When your child dies, there is the heartache and despair of lost dreams, hopes, and innocence. There are many financial burdens that pediatric cancer parents endure. All of these we have no control over.

But, the identity theft brought on after your child dies is a very low blow. Our family did what it thought was best to protect ourselves. Our son passed away June 5, 2011. We quickly filed our 2011 tax returns as soon as humanly possible, February 6, 2012. That did not seem to matter, someone has already claimed our son as their dependent. What else can we expect? His name, birthdate, social security number is fully available on the Death Master List. Anyone can access that information and for FREE. In addition to the IRS, we are now contacting all the credit agencies to ensure there is nothing else stolen under his name. I don't understand the need to publish FULL social security numbers of our deceased children. I would be fired from my job at eBay if I even accidentally disclosed a single social security number. What has happened to data privacy protection in this country! The fact that is okay for the genealogical companies' to publish this information for anyone to see is mind numbing to me.

Please stop the publication of FULL social security information of the Death Master List. And, to the fullest extent permissible, please prosecute the scum that fraudulently claim these children as dependents when filing tax returns.

Sincerely,  
Jay Johnson, father to this precious deceased boy

