

January 31, 2012

Dear Committee on Ways and Means,

I totally understand your situation with identity fraud and in how those unfortunate people who have suffered as of result of this, however not everyone is out to steal someone's identity. I am a Genealogical Researcher; the Social Security Death Index helped me in the past to locate family history for my clients. I am pleading with you not to eliminate public access but instead to find a way to limit what is published. My suggestion is to remove the social security number from being published with the Social Security Death Index. There is a downfall to doing this as when a researcher like myself needs to submit a request for other types of research records that require social security numbers, yet there are solutions to help us and to keep the Social Security Number private. In a case scenario such as this perhaps the solution would be that the government is willing to accept our limited information for these records request with just a name, date of birth, and date of death, leaving the government to look up the Social Security Number for that record would aid researchers like me in obtaining such a record. Which are so old that there is no way possible that a identity thief can use that record for themselves or others.

I have been doing my own Genealogical family research for a decade, and because of having the freedom to find a public record such as the social security index, it has helped me to locate several deceased family members, without this resource, it will be impossible to learn important family information. Please find a way to make this work for both of us. Making it private is not the total solution. Do you realize that there are countless other public records that can be had by indemnity thieves? We need to work together on this for better solutions. Thank you for your time in this very important matter, please be sure to include my concerns to your committee before your February 2012 meetings, family history is so very important to myself and millions of others, it is also an occupation for others. It is difficult enough as it is to help others find their families heritage, which pay for the services rendered by Genealogist. This could cost those professional researchers their jobs. Again, please as a Committee work together in finding solutions to benefit both parties and make it possible for millions of people like myself to be able to research, find, and to learn about our family history and heritage. Thank you.

Name - Mary A. Langdon

Address - 2901 Bald Mountain Road

Bear Creek Township, Pa. 18702

Phone number - 570-371-3318

Contact E-mail Address - Emmett1955@gmail.com

Title of Hearing – The Committee on Ways and Means.