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To: Congressman Dave Camp
House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means

**Re: Hearing on Social Security Death Records (use and impacts
of the death masterfile)**

As an amateur genealogist who has been doing this work for forty years, I would like to emphasize the importance of the public availability of this record in digitized form. Most particularly, for people like me, it is important to keep this record on the internet.

The actual social security number should **not** be available and never should have been put on-line. A person's name, date and place of birth, and date and place of death/receipt of benefits are vital information for people researching family history or looking for family members. These activities have become very important to many people throughout our country.

I cannot believe that privatizing this information will make much of a difference to anyone who is intent on wrongdoing, but it will throw up enormous obstacles to those of us who are honestly seeking information for no personal gain.

I hope that you will consider merely removing the social security numbers from the data available to the public, but letting the rest of the information continue to be accessed.

Thank you for your consideration.