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When I completed my PhD 25 years ago, I remember being eager to complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED). It was not burdensome, but rather an opportunity to reflect on years of training and research. And completing it took less than .001% of the hours spent pursuing my degree.

In my former capacity as a researcher of science policy and its economic impacts, results from the SED were an important source of information to assess human capital, trends in science, national capacity for research, and the complex connections between public science investments and commercial impacts that have allowed this country to prosper in the post-WWII era.

And now in my current capacity as an academic administrator -- with first-hand experience of what it takes to upload seed files as part of the survey collection process -- I can attest that the process is highly automated and minimally burdensome. Maintaining the Survey of Earned Doctorates in its current form provides significant economic and scientific value, and does not cost very much. Disrupting it would destroy that value, would have few if any viable substitutes, and would not save very much. Please continue collection of the Survey of Earned Doctorates.