

April 11, 2016

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Committee on Rules & Administration
305 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Rules & Administration
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Schumer:

On behalf of the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) and the Medical Library Association (MLA), we respectfully request that the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration recommend that the Senate confirm Dr. Carla Hayden's nomination to serve as America's fourteenth Librarian of Congress.

Dr. Hayden possesses a treasure trove of skills and expertise that will make her "The Librarian of Congress" for our time. Over the past forty-three years, she has served the profession with outstanding leadership and distinction as a children's librarian, young adult services coordinator with the Chicago system, library services coordinator for the Museum of Science and Industry, associate professor of the University of Pittsburgh School of Library and Information Science, and as deputy commissioner and chief librarian for the Chicago Public Library. Since 1993, she has served as chief executive officer of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore. She has helped revitalize the library system, updated its technology, and improved outreach services to the neighborhoods it serves, especially with an after-school center open to teens that offers homework assistance as well as college and career counseling.

Dr. Hayden received the prestigious Librarian of the Year Award from *Library Journal* magazine in 1995 for her work. As the American Library Association's 2003-2004 President, she was a strong advocate for the protections of library users' privacy and for "equity of access"—working to ensure that people have the right to unlimited library services and materials—no matter their age, ethnicity, physical ability, income, language, geographic location, or the type of library they are using.

We strongly believe that Dr. Hayden has the necessary administrative skills to ensure that the Library of Congress develops and implements the digital infrastructure it so desperately needs. Dr. Hayden's commitment to service balanced with a strong working knowledge of libraries and the needs of users are just what is needed to fulfill the mission of the Library of Congress in the 21st Century.

We heartily recommend her as our choice for the next Librarian of Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Michelle Kraft". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Michelle Kraft, AHIP
President, Medical Library Association

Ruth Riley, MS, AHIP
President, Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ruth A. Riley". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Organizational Bios

The Medical Library Association (MLA) is a nonprofit, educational organization with 3,500 health sciences information professional members worldwide. Founded in 1898, MLA provides lifelong educational opportunities, supports a knowledgebase of health information research, and works with a global network of partners to promote the importance of quality information for improved health to the health care community and the public.

The Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) supports academic health sciences libraries and directors in advancing the patient care, research, education and community service missions of academic health centers through visionary executive leadership and expertise in health information, scholarly communication, and knowledge management.