

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

October 1, 2015

The Honorable Barack H. Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to encourage you to consider nominating Dr. Carla D. Hayden to replace James H. Billington as the Librarian of Congress. Dr. Hayden, who currently serves as the Director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, is superbly qualified for the position. Baltimore's loss would be Congress and the Nation's gain.

Dr. Hayden was born in Florida but grew up in Queens and Chicago. She received her B.A. degree from Roosevelt University and began her career as a library associate at the Chicago Public Library in 1973. Later, she received M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Library Science from the University of Chicago's Graduate Library School. She was an assistant professor of library science at the University of Pittsburgh before returning to the Chicago Public Library as first deputy commissioner and then chief librarian. In 1993, we were fortunate to lure her to Baltimore, where she became Director at Enoch Pratt Free Library, one of the oldest and most distinguished free libraries in the Nation. The Library was established in 1882 "for all, rich and poor without distinction of race or color, who, when properly accredited, can take out the books if they will handle them carefully and return them."

Dr. Hayden has done a wonderful job and the community and her peers have recognized her accomplishments with numerous honorary degrees and awards. In 1995, she was awarded the prestigious National Librarian of the Year Award by *Library Journal*. She was the first African-American librarian to receive this award. From 2003 to 2004, she was president of the American Library Association, where she fought to protect library users' privacy and civil liberties.

Five years ago, you nominated Dr. Hayden to serve as a member of the National Museum & Library Services Board. We hope you will agree with us that Dr. Hayden is particularly well-qualified to become the Nation's first female, African-American Librarian of Congress.

Sincerely yours,



Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator