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Citizens for Maryland Libraries

March 2016

THE ADVOCATE *for Maryland Libraries*

Citizens for Maryland Libraries Supports Dr. Carla Hayden

to be the 14th Librarian of Congress

by Margaret Carty

On March 1, 2016, President Barack Obama announced his intention to nominate Dr. Carla Hayden to be Librarian of Congress. Since 2010, Dr. Hayden has served on the National Library and Museum Services Board, which advises the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). She is currently the chief executive officer of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore and is a past president of the American Library Association. Dr. Hayden will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the role," said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. "She has demonstrated a firm commitment to libraries, museums and archives and is especially adept at finding new and innovative ways to engage communities and populations. As the Library of Congress continues to expand its digital and outreach capabilities, Dr. Hayden will be well-situated to lead the institution into the future. We at IMLS look forward to continuing to work with Dr. Hayden in her new role."

The consideration of nominating Dr. Hayden was submitted in a letter on October 1, 2015 to President Obama by United States Senators Barbara A. Mikulski and Benjamin L. Cardin. A quote from their letter of nomination states:

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 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. 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.

In the next steps of the process, Dr. Hayden's nomination goes to the Rules Committee for consideration and then to the full Senate for a vote.

Now is the time for all Maryland citizens to promote a positive vote with the Senate. Ask those who represent you in the Senate to move forward with the nomination of Dr. Carla Hayden.



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