



Chairman Blunt's Opening Statement Annual Oversight of the Library of Congress

Dr. Hayden is the 14th Librarian of Congress, but only the third professional librarian to hold this position. I was fortunate to get to know Dr. Hayden during her confirmation process in 2016. I appreciate the energy and enthusiasm she brings to the Library.

The Library of Congress is our country's oldest cultural institution and was created in 1800 by the same act of Congress that moved the capital from Philadelphia to Washington DC.

The Library was established to preserve our shared history, promote and protect scholarship and creativity, and to become a world class repository for a vast collection of works.

I believe the Library continues to fulfill these goals, yet the job is never done. During Dr. Hayden's confirmation hearing I said the following:

"The next Librarian of Congress will lead an organization that has significant physical and technological limitations and is struggling to adapt to the 21st century. Due to a historic shortage of storage space, the Library has had millions of items stored improperly and at risk of degradation. In addition, recent information technology management challenges have raised questions about the Library's ability to serve future generations as more-and-more collections need to be digitally collected, preserved, and made available to the public."

I look forward to learning more about the work Dr. Hayden has undertaken to address these and other issues.

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