

## Colleagues and Friends,

As we continue to represent library professionals throughout Suffolk County, we are reaching out to express our great concern regarding the dismissal of Dr. Carla Hayden, the 14th Librarian of Congress.

Appointed in 2016 as the first woman and first African American to lead the Library of Congress, Dr. Hayden advanced access, digitization, and public service during her tenure. Her leadership strengthened the Library's ability to serve the public, Congress, and the wider research community.

Notification of her dismissal was delivered by email, without public explanation or cause. This action follows other removals of leaders from national cultural and legislative institutions and raises concerns about the continued independence of these agencies. The Library of Congress supports critical services, including the Copyright Office, the Congressional Research Service, and the Law Library of Congress. These services rely on stable, nonpartisan leadership.

For further information, take a look at the following coverage:

- NPR: President Trump fires Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden
- New York Times: Trump Administration Fires Librarian of Congress
- EveryLibrary: President Trump Fires the Librarian of Congress and Now Congress Must Push Back

We know these are uncertain times but we must continue to take action.

SCLA encourages you, your friends, and family to register as a <u>Library Advocate through NYLA</u>. We urge you and your support network to contact their respective elected officials to request oversight and accountability. Contact information for all members of Congress is available at:

• <a href="https://www.congress.gov/members">https://www.congress.gov/members</a>

Additionally, please help raise awareness by sharing reliable information and official statements on social media, and by encouraging your colleagues and others in your support network to do the same.

Always remind those who will listen that libraries are not luxuries – they are lifelines. They are essential to our democracy and must remain independent, nonpartisan, and dedicated to serving all people.

Thank you for your time and attention.

On behalf of the Suffolk County Library Association Board,

Anthony Giansante President Suffolk County Library Association