



April 30, 2018

The Honorable Richard Burr, Chairman
The Honorable Mark Warner, Vice Chairman
U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
211 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senators Burr and Warner:

I write on behalf of the Society of American Archivists (SAA), the nation's largest body of professionals entrusted with the care and preservation of the United States' documentary record, to express our objections to the nomination of Gina Haspel to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). We note with profound concern and dismay Ms. Haspel's alleged oversight of torture as director of a CIA "black site," as well as her involvement in the destruction of 92 videotapes documenting said torture. Ms. Haspel and her superior destroyed these records of CIA interrogations in clear violation of federal court orders and against the advice of numerous other government leaders, effectively eliminating the government's and the public's ability to hold the agency and its agents accountable for its policies.

Records ensure the protection of individuals' rights, the accountability of governments and organizations, and the accessibility of historical information. Equal and equitable public access to government information is a cornerstone of our democracy. We must appoint individuals to positions of leadership who value government transparency and whom we as citizens can trust to create and retain an authentic and reliable government record. Ms. Haspel has demonstrated that she cannot be entrusted with this responsibility, and we therefore urge you to deny her appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Tanya Zanish-Belcher'.

Tanya Zanish-Belcher
President, 2017 – 2018