



September 21, 2022

The Honorable Gary C. Peters
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Email to: David Weinberg, Pam Thiessen, Caitlyn Stephenson, and Kevin Smith

Re: Letter in Support of Dr. Colleen J. Shogan, Nominee for Archivist of the United States

Dear Chairman Peters and Ranking Member Portman:

On behalf of the American members of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), I write to you in strong support of the pending nomination of Dr. Colleen J. Shogan to become the eleventh Archivist of the United States (AOTUS).

APG is the world's largest association for professional genealogists, and we advocate and educate on professional issues affecting genealogists, family historians, researchers, educators, and others. Our members have a deep knowledge of American history and rely on the programs and activities of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for our day-to-day work.

We strongly believe that Dr. Shogan exhibits the requisite experience and key qualities needed to meet the challenges of the position of AOTUS. Her previous senior leadership positions at the Library of Congress and Congressional Research Service are strong indications of her commitment to government service. Her work at the White House Historical Association is another example of her experience of working with professionals of many disciplines, including genealogists, historians, archivists, and others who are regular users of NARA.

The confirmation of Dr. Shogan as archivist would be a significant step forwards in addressing two issues of concern to APG members—the backlog of records behind the scenes at NARA, and the management of the annual exponential growth of new records.

NARA's role as the keeper of America's historical records is essential to the work of APG members and the larger genealogy community. We thank you for your consideration of our views, and we urge a swift confirmation process for Dr. Shogan, to ensure the important work of NARA continues uninterrupted.

Respectfully,

Annette Burke Lyttle, President