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District of Columbia Council
Committee on District of Columbia Public Library

I wish to testify at the Hearing on the District of Columbia Public Library as to the value and importance of the Public Library to me.

My name is Edith B. Chase. I am a 82-year young native Washingtonian. The public libraries have always played a large part in my life--as a child, a teen ager, an adult, and now as a senior citizen.

I've been hearing impaired since I was a small child, and, once I began to read, the public library was a home to me. I'm now visually impaired as a result of glaucoma. But I still read thanks to the Large Print Books that I receive from the MLK library.

Several years ago, because of a mobility problem, I signed up with the Adaptive Services Division of the DC public library system. And then started having the books mailed to my home., I've been most fortunate to be assisted by Christopher Corrigan, a Library Associate. We've never met but have gotten to know each other through e-mails. Chris has been wonderful in selecting books. He has introduced me to books/authors that I was not familiar with and those books have enhanced my knowledge as well as my social networking because i can then discuss those books with friends or recommend the books. The library does it's best to keep current with the addition of current and relevant books.

Recently (Jan. 18, 2012), John Kelly's Washington Post column was about the MLK library program for the blind and low vision--their book club and the services provided by the branch. It was an interesting article but I was sorry that Mr Kelly had not mentioned the Large Print Book program. The column did point out the importance of the

library's Adaptive Services Department to one of the many groups it serves.

The library serves the needs of so many citizens of the District of Columbia. We need to support the libraries to the fullest extent possible. I for one would be devastated if I could no longer receive Large Print Books.

Thank you,