

Eshoo Reacts to Nomination of General Michael Hayden to Head CIA

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Reacting to President Bush's announcement this morning that he intends to nominate Air Force General Michael Hayden as the next Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-Palo Alto) released the following statement:

"As Director of the National Security Agency, General Hayden implemented and has been the chief defender of the President's domestic spying program. I believe this controversial program has not been conducted under the law. Surely his nomination will be mired in controversy as Republicans and Democrats voice their deep concerns over his nomination, and at a time when the CIA needs a leader who will revitalize a demoralized agency.

"Two years ago, Congress initiated the most sweeping reform of our nation's intelligence community since the Cold War, and in the aftermath of these changes there has been an intense struggle between the CIA and the Defense Department over their roles in our foreign intelligence apparatus. The President's decision to put an active military general in charge of the CIA takes us in the wrong direction and will only further undermine this embattled agency.

"In the haste to nominate someone to fill this vital post, the President has put forward a nominee that will only create further controversy."

Representative Eshoo is a Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.