

**The Honorable Barbara Bailey Kennelly**  
U.S. Representative of Connecticut (1982–1999)

**Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

**Different Arguments**

Representative Kennelly discusses the unique perspectives women bring to Congress.  
*Interview recorded September 9, 2015*

You bring a whole new aspect. Your arguments can be very, very different. You've lived life as a woman and having been in social service for so many years before I went into politics. I knew so much about people who were disadvantaged. I knew a great deal about handicapped people. I certainly had worked with the elderly. So these are things that men often hadn't done. Many of them go—an awful lot of people go from the state legislature, and I had worked at the city level in a very poor city. So yeah, I think it makes—women look at those issues much differently. And even on Social Security I look at things differently. I understand it. I understand what it means to be a poor woman and have that as the only thing. You know, we worked so hard for housekeepers to get it. No, women bring a whole—many, many, many ways women and men are the same and in many, many ways we're very different.