

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

"The Guys Didn't Intimidate Me"

Representative Kennelly recalls some of the obstacles she faced in her early years on the Ways and Means Committee.

Interview recorded September 9, 2015

It was silly things that they did. One time we were working late and I wasn't agreeing on some things and I came in. You know, they had the pizza already there and they said, "You can't have it, you're not voting with us." You know what I mean? Just small things that, but you know, "give the needle." But that didn't last at all, not at all. My father was such a strong man and, you know, this was this, and this was this, and, you know, the guys didn't intimidate me. Not at all, not at all. And I didn't—and that's the thing I didn't—I didn't ever let them know it bothered me. When you don't bite, it's over.