

Gwendolyn Mink

Daughter of the Honorable Patsy Takemoto Mink of Hawaii

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

"A Woman Who Was Willing to Talk about Women"

Gwendolyn Mink describes the importance of women in Congress.

Interview recorded March 14, 2016

Well, I think that, I think that every sort of little thing—or maybe not so little thing—but that the women in Congress dared to speak about, whether it was, you know, not having gym access in the 1960s, or insisting that Anita Hill be heard in 1991, to insisting that certain kinds of women's issues, at least, get a full hearing. I think all of those things have been part of the story of women in Congress, and part of my mother's story of being a woman in Congress. I think that, I think that what she took from her service was kind of a constant reminder to herself of the importance that women serve, and—because one woman can't accomplish what 218 women could, right? And so, her goal of at least parity for women, for the whole full range of women's voices, I think is something that she would have hoped to see, but hope that the legacy of being the first woman of color, and being a woman who was willing to talk about women, you know, that that would be part of what she would leave to the future.