

Liz Abzug

Daughter of U.S. Representative Bella Savitzky Abzug of New York

Getting A “Chance at Equality”

Liz Abzug stresses the significance of her mother’s push for legislation granting women legal access to credit.

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Prior to that act, women couldn’t get a credit card in their own name. They had to get a credit card under their husband’s name. And my mother thought that was outrageous, and so she introduced a bill saying that a single woman, divorced woman, could get a credit card in her own name. And she—you know, I’d have a few jokes about it, like she did this commercial for American Express, you know about—she mocked the whole thing that, you know, she could only get it in her, in her husband’s name. And this really was a turning point, because if you can’t get credit—it’s not just credit cards. Credit to, for loans. Credit for housing. Credit for a business. You’d—how can you have a, you know, chance at equality? How can you have, you know, half the population not getting a right that the other half gets?