

## **The Honorable Barbara Boxer**

**U.S. Representative of California (1983–1993) and U.S. Senator of California (1993–2017)**

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

#### **Authentic**

The Honorable Barbara Boxer talks about her political style in the House.

*Interview recorded November 29, 2018*

I would say I tried to be authentic. I don't know how else—what's the word? And I do get, you know, when I see something terrible happening, I do get emotional about it, I do get sad, I do get angry, and I always showed it. So whatever I was feeling, I tried to show. I didn't, I didn't hide my feelings. I was, I wore them, like, on my sleeve. I've always done that, you know, and, and that subjected me to a lot of criticism. "Well, it's not professional." Well, you know, I, I, I always said, you know, "If I ever stopped feeling, I wouldn't be good at my job." So I would say—just showed my feelings. I showed my emotions, and that's the way I always was, you know. I didn't worry about it. So, yes, a lot of times I was feisty because I was upset about something and I had to talk about it, so, I don't know. I don't know if I'm saying it right, but that's the only thing I could say, I mean. I would, I would get, you know, very upset if there was mistreatment of children, and I wasn't about to hide it how I felt, you know.