

The Honorable Donna F. Edwards
U.S. Representative of Maryland (2008–2017)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Lived Experience

Representative Edwards describes the significance of diverse lived experiences as a Member of Congress.

Interview recorded June 29, 2018

I don't believe in this idea of women's issues. I, I just don't buy it. And, and in some ways my time in Congress—or, or that if you're an African American that you only have to work on civil rights and social justice issues. And so I think it's really important to have a, a wide range of experience and gender representation and race and ethnicity representation across the wide swath of, of Congress. And because, as I said, in my view if you are around the table your experience alone, your lived experience, will enable you to see things through a different lens and that has to be part of the conversation.