

Jennice Fuentes
Chief of Staff, Representative Luis Gutiérrez of Illinois

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

No Delegation: Part Two

Jennice Fuentes explains the close relationship she witnessed between the Office of the Resident Commissioner and the Puerto Rican Governor.

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You know, back in the day when I used to work for the Office of the Resident Commissioner, they would work very closely with the Office of the Governor. So it was like that was their delegation. So the Governor and the Resident Commissioner would work side by side, with the Governor actually dictating the agenda and the Resident Commissioner, and all of us who worked for him, following what both of them decided. But it was a team. And it was teamwork, and—which doesn't exist today between those offices, by the way, but used to when I was there. And that's, you know, when you have a Governor walking into a congressional office as a—lobbying for the interest of his constituents, it's powerful and it can yield results. So that's what we had. We had the Governor and his staff. And obviously Puerto Rico has always had friends. You know, back in the time, Patrick Moynihan, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the Senator from New York, was one of our big supporters. Senator Kennedy and his family have always been supportive of Puerto Rico. So we had very heavy hitters on the Senate that would always work with the Governor and assist us.