

## **Betsy Wright Hawkings**

**Chief of Staff, Representative Christopher Shays of Connecticut**

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

#### **Being a Working Mother**

Betsy Wright Hawkings describes the difficulties of building a career as a working mother.

*Interview recorded April 18, 2016*

So, it was, it was always just kind of more. Right? I mean like now, when you become a chief of staff you go from just having to worry about policy to having to worry about financial management and, how we're managing the schedule and the district office operation and in sort of a macro-sense, the political stuff, so, you know, it was just kind of more. And I think that's part of the reason why I stayed, too, is that I was always learning. I had a job that I felt made a difference. I was being rewarded at a pretty rapid rate and he was giving me the flexibility to try to be the mom that I wanted to be, at the same time, at the same time, you know, I was having this professional success and professional recognition. And it got to the point where I didn't feel that I could be—particularly once we had the majority, and he became a subcommittee chairman, I didn't—and that's another thing that changed. Like then we had, we had a subcommittee chairmanship to integrate and you know, he used to say, you know, "I need to have one person who's thinking about all this and that's you," meaning me. And it became harder and harder for me to—and it really wasn't him driving it, it was my guilt. That I couldn't be the kind of mom I wanted to be and do the job that I wanted to do. And so, I ended up going part time for about, oh gosh, I guess it was, I guess it was about five years.