

The Honorable Martha Elizabeth Keys
U.S. Representative of Kansas (1975–1979)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Title IX Vote

Representative Keys describes a memorable vote on the House Floor.
Interview recorded June 14, 2016

Patsy Mink was chairing it, you know, because of her committee. And the votes were being cast. She was called out because her daughter had been in an accident, was at the brink of death. And she left, had to leave before casting her vote. It failed by one vote. And someone, I mean, you know, someone who had voted against it, some decent Republican or whoever it was who had voted against it, or maybe someone voted against it purposely so they could ask for the vote to be taken again. So it was taken again later. She was back and it passed, you know, by two or three votes. But that was such a dramatic—because we had worked terribly hard on that. We had every coach that you saw all the time on television roaming the halls. And, it was quite a, quite, quite a big effort to get that through and quite a dramatic occasion because of the tragedy of Patsy's daughter's accident.