

The Honorable Jill Lynette Long Thompson
U.S. Representative of Indiana (1989–1995)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Importance of Women Staff

Representative Long Thompson speaks about the value of women staff on Capitol Hill.
Interview recorded June 15, 2017

I think that's very important because as you know, Members of Congress take positions. And we read the material, but we're the front, we're like the face of the office. And, and we're more than the face of the office but we can't get anything done unless we have staff who are doing the behind-the-scenes work, and having women engaged in negotiating with other staff on various committees, talking about how you find some common ground between two differing positions. As a Member, you can't do that on every issue. You just have to make sure your staff knows where you stand and what the limits are, what the boundaries are. And, but also, women advising Members of Congress is very, very important, because again, just as women Members of Congress bring a different perspective than the male Members of Congress, the same thing is true of staff.