

The Honorable Kendrick B. Meek

U.S. Representative of Florida (2003–2011) and Son of Representative Carrie P. Meek of Florida

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

African Americans and Congress

Representative Meek discusses the struggles of African Americans and the future of representation in Congress.

Interview recorded March 19, 2019

But when you think about the whole way that all of us got here was through slavery, and for slavery to have happened in this country for so many, so many years, and to see outlawed education for so many years, outlawed voter participation for so many years, see a Mr. Lewis serve in this Congress and still watch video and film of him being beaten and, and still seeing video and film of him in the White House, you know, major legislation being signed. And to see him today on the floor giving closing speeches to, to, to close debate on major legislation, bills—not—how would you say—mixed feelings about our country, but definitely give you hope that a greater day is still coming. Even after serving with Senator Obama and serving with President Obama, the struggle still continues. So I think that we'll see more and more people of color come to the Congress.