

The Honorable Susan Molinari
U.S. Representative of New York (1990–1997)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Violence Against Women Act

Representative Molinari recalls focusing on the Violence Against Women Act.
Interview recorded January 8, 2016

But I think the Violence Against Women Act was really sort of one of those—and, and the reauthorizations—because it gave us an opportunity to talk about it. It gave us an opportunity to highlight, it gave us an opportunity to give voice to those people who for so long, felt like they had absolutely no voice, and, and brought it out of the closet and again, made it political. That's how we make changes. I make—I bear no apologies to say that, you know, making something political is how you make changes in a democracy. And so, when people want to discuss it, when people want to have town halls on it, you know, that's when you're going to see the societal shift. And I really think, you know, the whole issue of violence against women, you know, "Buddy, take a walk around the block," protective orders, you know, just society's response to, you know, acknowledging the helplessness that sometimes individuals find themselves in when, you know, they, they have kids, don't have kids. But, you know, just elevating that conversation every time it had to be reauthorized was a really important moment I think in, at least while I was here.