

The Honorable Constance A. Morella
U.S. Representative of Maryland (1987–2003)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Moving in the Right Direction

Representative Morella predicts the number of women serving in Congress 150 years after Jeannette Rankin was elected.

Interview recorded June 16, 2015

I, I would like to see 50 percent, but even if it were 40 percent, I would be happy. I think that would be great. Yes, I think we need to—I remember in the "Year of the Woman" was, what, 1992? And that was where everybody thought, oh boy, we are moving in the right direction with, with new, newly elected—24 new ones on top of what they had. That was pretty incredible. And yet, somehow it plateaued. Even went down a bit, now coming up a little bit, too. I also, I also have a little personal concern about the fact that two-thirds of the women that serve are Democrats and one-third Republican. So, it's saying something to a political party that, "Hey, you can't neglect 52 percent of the population. You'd better try to do something to get them more involved, encourage them to run, and to give them support."