

The Honorable Sue W. Kelly
U.S. Representative of New York (1995–2007)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

A Different Time

Representative Kelly recalls how girls were treated differently because of their gender when she was younger.

Interview recorded June 23, 2016

Well, you have to understand, I'm 80 years old. So back when I was growing up—when I was in high school, for instance, women, women, girls were not allowed to take physics. We were allowed to take chemistry, but physics was considered too demanding for women in high school. When I went to college, there were 37 pages of rules for women and three pages of rules for men. Women were still objectified when I was growing up. The joke in college used to be to get married. A point of being in college for a lot of women was to, was to get married. And the joke was “A ring by spring or your money back.”