

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

The Violence Against Women Act

Representative Kelly describes the role of Republican Congresswomen, like Representatives Connie Morella of Maryland and Jennifer Dunn of Washington, in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

Interview recorded June 23, 2016

Well, one was VAWA, Violence Against Women Act. Connie worked heavily with the Democrat women to get that passed. And when I was the chair—when I was running that legislation, I worked heavily with the Democrat women, and we both really had to push. It was hard. They, the men, men don't think it's important, I think. But that, I watched, I watched Jennifer Dunn get into a real argument with Newt about that. And Connie, Connie was more soft-spoken, but Connie, Connie, Connie has such courage. I really grew to admire her enormously because she's so courageous. And it's because she simply felt she had nothing to lose. She was going to get this bill done. And she was going to help me get it reauthorized. So we did.