

## **Linda Steele**

**Deputy Chief of Staff, Representative Bob Michel of Illinois**

### **Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

#### **Common Bond Between Staff Members**

Linda Steele explains the uncertainty working in a Member office.

*Interview recorded June 7, 2016*

It was more of a family. It was like a—it was sort of like we're all in this together, this is like—it was like being a corporation, almost, like a large corporation. We're all working for the same—we weren't all working for the same person, but we were all working for the same reason. And there is, there is something inherently, extremely insecure about being a congressional staff person because you've, you have no employment protection. Congressional employees are not covered under any of—or at least they weren't, I, I—probably still the same—are not covered under any of the labor laws that have been passed to protect American workers, and so, virtually, if your boss dies, if he is defeated, if he resigns, you're out of a job. So, you have no continuum protection for salary. Say, if you're making \$50,000 today, you're working for Member X, he dies, you have, you get a job for Member Z, you could start out \$20,000 less and in a totally different job. You're, there is no—you just become part of the whole competitive market looking for a job, and it happens every election year.