

**The Honorable Elizabeth Furse**  
U.S. Representative of Oregon (1993–1999)

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

**Mixing Bowl**

Representative Furse explains the importance of including Members from diverse backgrounds in Congress.

*Interview recorded June 8, 2017*

Yes, but not that they're, they're better. It's just that they have the experience of, that a man doesn't have, just as a man has some experiences that women don't have. I think it's important to have all the experiences there, just as it's important to have diversity of color and, and religion, so that you get the mix, because America is a mixing bowl of all sorts of things. To have only one group represented is not a good idea, so that when there were only almost all white men, good people maybe, smart people, but they don't have any experience of other people, other people's experience, and I think that's vital. I think it's, it's vital in every group of decision makers; there must be more experience than just one particular kind. So that's what women brought and that's what women of color brought, what men of color bring, they bring something very different from the experience of white middle class men, who were before, who really were the representation in the Congress.