

December 11, 2013  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Debbie Walsh ([walsh@eagleton.rutgers.edu](mailto:walsh@eagleton.rutgers.edu))  
(732) 932-9384, ext. 227  
Gilda Morales ([gmm@eagleton.rutgers.edu](mailto:gmm@eagleton.rutgers.edu))  
(732) 932-9384, ext. 264

**RECORD NUMBER OF WOMEN TO SERVE IN CONGRESS;  
MASSACHUSETTS SPECIAL ELECTION WINNER BRINGS TOTAL TO 99**

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J.– When Democrat Katherine Clark, winner of a special election to represent Massachusetts’ fifth district, is sworn in Thursday, December 12, women will hold a record 99 seats (76D, 23R) in Congress: 20 (16D, 4R) in the Senate and a record 79 (60D, 19R) in the House of Representatives. The Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP), a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, reports that women will hold 18.5 percent of the seats in Congress, including 20 percent of Senate seats and 18.2 percent of House seats. Additionally, three Democrats serve as non-voting delegates from Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Washington, D.C.

Clark, a state senator from Melrose, defeated her Republican opponent, Frank J. Addivino Jr., and two independent candidates to win the seat formerly held by Edward J. Markey, who won a special election to fill the Senate seat formerly held by Secretary of State John Kerry. Clark becomes the sixth woman ever to represent Massachusetts in Congress (one in the Senate, five in the House), joining the two Bay State women currently serving, Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Rep. Niki Tsongas.

“Since women are more than half the U.S. population, we’re always pleased to see the numbers in Congress grow,” said CAWP director Debbie Walsh. “However, while we’re edging close to 100 for the first time, we’re still far from parity.”

**About CAWP**

The Center for American Women and Politics, a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey is a university-based research, education and public service center. Its mission is to promote greater knowledge and understanding about women’s changing relationship to politics and government and to enhance women’s influence and leadership in public life. CAWP is a leading authority in its field and a respected bridge between the academic and political worlds.

###