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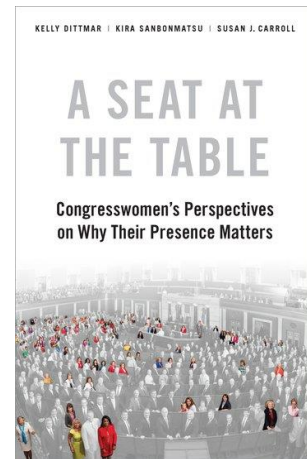
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## New Book Highlights Why Increasing Women's Political Representation Matters

Record numbers of women are [running for office](#) in 2018. What difference will it make if they win?

In their new book, [A Seat at the Table: Congresswomen's Perspectives on Why Their Presence Matters](#) (Oxford University Press), Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) scholars Kelly Dittmar, Kira Sanbonmatsu, and Susan J. Carroll rely on interviews with over three-quarters of women serving in the 114th Congress (2015-17) to detail the myriad ways in which women's representation matters on Capitol Hill. While congresswomen's perspectives, experiences, and influence are neither uniform nor interchangeable, they strongly believe their presence affects congressional culture, priorities, processes, debates, and outcomes.

*A Seat at the Table* provides engaging stories and insights from congresswomen, as well as accessible analysis, that will resonate with broad audiences and facilitate timely conversations about the potential effects of increasing women's congressional representation in 2019. Some highlights include:



*"I think women tend to be more collaborative, but I want to dispel the notion that somehow we think alike or that we share the same political views; just as the men in the Senate span the ideological spectrum, so do the women. But I do believe the style of the women senators is more collaborative."*

**Senator Susan Collins (R- ME)**  
**Chapter 5: Congresswomen's Work Across Party Lines**

*"I think it is easier for a female member to imagine what it's like to be victimized, to be disbelieved, disregarded, and retaliated against. It is something that they can imagine happening easier than many of our male colleagues who can't imagine ever being victimized or disbelieved or disregarded because they've never experienced that."*

**Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)**  
**Chapter 6: Altering Policy Agendas and Debates**

*"[Having more women of color in Congress] makes a difference when little African American girls can dream that they, too, can serve in Congress."*

**Representative Joyce Beatty (D-OH)**  
**Chapter 7: Changing the Institution, Image, and Exercise of Power**

[Click here](#) for highlighted findings from the book, select quotations from congresswomen, and endorsements from former Senators Olympia Snowe and Mary Landrieu. The book's authors have also provided a summary of the book's key contributions at CAWP's [blog](#). The full table of contents is below.

For a review copy of *A Seat at the Table*, contact Seth Cotterman at Oxford University Press: [seth.cotterman@oup.com](mailto:seth.cotterman@oup.com).

For interviews or bookings with the authors, contact Daniel De Simone at the Center for American Women and Politics: [d-desimone@eagleton.rutgers.edu](mailto:d-desimone@eagleton.rutgers.edu)

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### **About CAWP**

The Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP), a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers-New Brunswick, is nationally recognized as the leading source of scholarly research and current data about American women's political participation. Its mission is to promote greater knowledge and understanding about women's participation in politics and government and to enhance women's influence and leadership in public life. CAWP's education and outreach programs translate research findings into action, addressing women's under-representation in political leadership with effective, imaginative programs serving a variety of audiences. As the world has watched Americans considering female candidates for the nation's highest offices, CAWP's over four decades of analyzing and interpreting women's participation in American politics have provided a foundation and context for the discussion.

