

PLENARY SESSION

"National Issues and Challenges Facing Women: Current Legislation"

Keynote**Speaker:**

Patricia Scott Schroeder
U.S. House of Representatives
First Congressional District of Colorado

Representative Schroeder is an outspoken leader on critical issues of foreign and military policy, arms control and disarmament, women's economic equity and health, educational opportunity, civil and constitutional rights. Since she was first elected in 1972, Representative Schroeder has brought issues related to women and children to greater prominence. She is the Democratic Whip, Dean of the Colorado Congressional Delegation, and the most senior woman in Congress. She is the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. She currently serves on the House Armed Services Committee on Children, Youth and Families. Representative Schroeder was a practicing attorney and educator prior to her election to public service. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and Harvard Law School.

Synopsis:

A leading advocate of women's rights, Congresswoman Schroeder discussed some significant current legislation before Congress which is particularly critical for women in non-traditional careers. Subjects of legislation included women's health, domestic violence, equity act, and part-time compensation.



"In high school I wanted to be an aerospace engineer but was told it was a ridiculous career choice for a woman. So, I ended up at Harvard Law School where the Dean welcomed this first class of women by proclaiming that the inclusion of women at this esteemed institution was unfortunate and misguided. No doubt, my educational experience at Harvard was excellent preparation for my career in the United States Congress."

Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder
WEPAN Conference, 1994

