## Miss Representation: The Portrayal of Powerful Women in the Media

Overcoming gender biases and stereotypes in 21st century media

Honorary Host: U.S. Representative Brenda L. Lawrence, (MI-14)



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The media can play a significant role in either perpetuating or challenging social norms. The gender bias means that women as a whole are extremely underrepresented in politics, and when they are, the emphasis is placed on what or who they are wearing and not on their policies. Erika Falk, author of "Women for President: Media Bias in Nine Campaigns" discovered that female candidates were subjected to quadruple the amount of appearance-based coverage in comparison to their male counterparts. Women such as Democrat Leader U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi, former U.S. Senator Carol Mosely-Braun, and former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have blazed a trail for women in politics. Although there has been amazing progress in the area of women's rights and liberation, there is much more to do. Negative portrayals of female politicians do not affect them singularly, the effects last a lot longer and have a significant impact on the women that enter the political field today. This panel will challenge how you see 51 percent of the population and what you can do to alter media standards and ensure women and men are seen treated equally.