Representative Appointments: The Effect of Women Constituencies on Supreme Court Confirmation Votes

Funds were used to support the collection of data for the support of interest groups and PACs of senators voting on the nomination of Justice Sotomayor. The project sought to investigate the link between popular will and appointed officials in a representative democracy. The preferences of voters and interest groups can be funneled through elected officials at the time of confirmation in the Senate. Funds were used to pay graduate students, who collected data concerning key conservative and liberal groups, which advocate women issues in Congress. The data collected with the support of the Rockefeller College Research Incentive Fund indicate that liberal (but not conservative) women interest groups systematically affect the votes of senators on Supreme Court nominees. In addition, the data collected were used to write a paper, which was invited by the editors of The Journal of Women, Politics and Policy to revise and resubmit.

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