

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Representative Barbara Flynn Currie

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Educational Reform Act of 1985 Oral History project

Interview # E85-A-L-2014-025

Representative Barbara Flynn Currie, a member of the Illinois House of Representatives involved in the passage of Illinois's 1985 Educational Reform Act, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-Educational Reform Act of 1985* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: August 6, 2014 Location: Rep. Currie's District Office, Chicago, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: Gregg Cott, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Roberta Volkmann & Janice Culp, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 22 Total Time: 1:01 / 1.02 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 15, 2014.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie, *Educational Reform Act of 1985*, E85-A-L-2014-025

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Barbara Flynn Currie was born in Lacrosse, Wisconsin in May, 1940. She grew up on the near south side of Chicago and graduated from the University of Chicago High School in 1958. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Chicago in 1968 and an MA degree in 1973. She has been a state representative in the Illinois House of Representatives since 1979. She was a leader of the Democratic Party caucus for many years and served on the important House Rules and House Revenue Committees. Her interests included early childhood education, civil rights legislation, and women and poverty issues. She also had an interest in educational policy, due to the fact that her father was a University of Chicago professor, and her mother was a middle school teacher.

Representative Currie discusses her involvement in the early childhood legislation that was part of the 1985 Educational Reform Act. This helped create the Prekindergarten At-Risk program and allowed for the reimbursement of full day kindergarten programs in Illinois. She also covers the bill's transition over the three decades following its passage.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Educational Act of 1985; Illinois State Legislature; English as second language learners; Adult Basic Education programs; GED programs; adult literacy; youth services; strategies to improve retention and academic performance.

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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