



How Congress Works, Sort Of

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[Maira Kalman visits Congress](#) and offers her unique perspective on the legislative process in her continuing series *And the Pursuit of Happiness*. Her illustrations highlight nicely the tension between the grandeur of the place and the messages about liberty and equality.



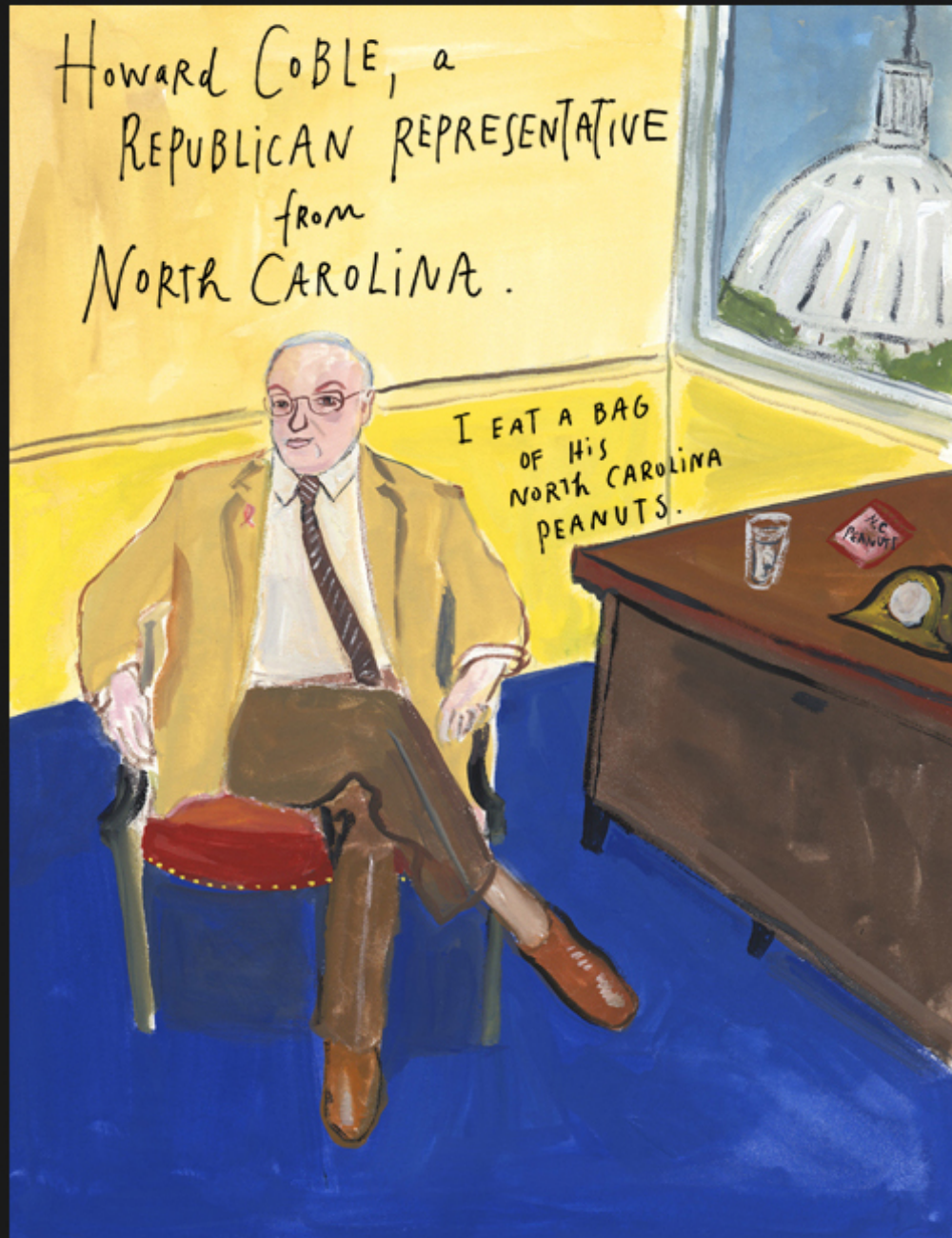
Above the Women's Room.



The thousands of people who visit and work here are ALWAYS reminded of LOFTY PRINCIPLES.
(The bathrooms are bipartisan.)



After describing the complicated process for making laws, she highlights something that too many people forget—"the system is supposed to be cumbersome and not subject to the whim of the moment." Mission accomplished. The system also is composed of good people who are doing their best under less-than-perfect circumstances. As always, Kalman has interesting ways of featuring those folks.



Kalman strikes me as one of our most effective civics teachers—interesting, accessible, and respectful of government institutions and the people who make them work. Take a look and see



what you think.