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1st Democratic Maine congresswoman sworn in

Article Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2009

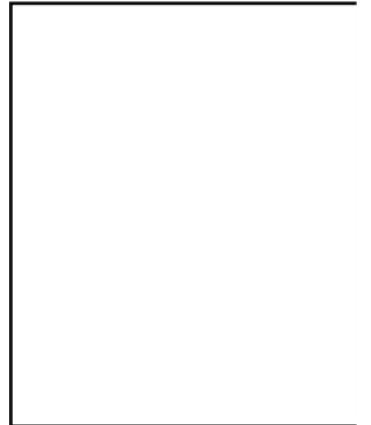
PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Chellie Pingree will be sworn in as the first Democratic woman elected to represent Maine on Capitol Hill.

The entire House will take the oath of office together Tuesday. Afterward, Pingree will participate in a ceremonial event with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Also getting sworn into office for her third term is Republican Sen. Susan Collins.

Maine already has elected three Republican women, including Collins, to Congress. But despite those successes, women continue to be underrepresented on Capitol Hill.

Rutgers' Center for American Women and Politics says only 16 percent of the seats in Congress — 16 in the Senate, 71 in the House — were currently held by women in the last Congress.

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