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Washington, D.C. – Representative Karen Bass (D-Calif) released the following statement recently on her reappointment to serve as Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations in the 113th Congress. Representative Bass is currently the only African American woman serving on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"I am honored to serve as Ranking Member of this critically important subcommittee at such a pivotal time in America's relationship with Africa. During my first term, I was honored to play a role in helping to redefine America's relationship with the continent and pushing for the United States to be a fully engaged partner in the thriving economic growth being seen all across sub-Saharan Africa. We successfully secured an extension of AGOA's third country fabric provision that permits African nations to import raw materials from anywhere in the world, produce apparel, and export the finished product to Africa from the U.S. duty-free. For U.S. apparel companies like GAP and Levi Strauss, this extension helped to make it possible that they can continue to do business in Africa.

Working across party lines, we will do what we can to resolve many long-simmering conflicts that threaten the stability of the continent and expose human rights abuses wherever they exist across the globe. I look forward to continuing this work and am honored to be chosen to serve."