



Rep. Karen Bass Short Biography

Congressmember Karen Bass was re-elected to her fifth term representing California's 37th Congressional District in November of 2018. Later that month, she was elected by her peers to serve as the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), which boasts a historic 55 members in the 116th Congress. Congressmember Bass also serves as Chair of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations and as a member on the House Judiciary Committee.

Prior to serving in Congress, Congressmember Bass made history as the first-ever African American woman to serve as Speaker of any state assembly. In this powerful state legislative role, she helped California to recover from the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression, for which she won the 2010 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.

Congressmember Bass grew up in the Venice/Fairfax area of Los Angeles, which is the same area she represents today in Congress. She is a graduate of California State Dominguez Hills, the University of Southern California's School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program, and the USC Masters Program in Social Work.