



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Rep. Bass Statement on Upcoming Angolan Presidential Elections**

*WASHINGTON – Today, Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA), Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights issued the following statement:*

“Tomorrow Angola holds its presidential election, a significant focusing event for the nation’s future as its people strive to have their voices heard. The contest between opposition leader Adalberto Costa Júnior and incumbent president João Lourenço, who is running for a second term, is a significant election for Angola as the country has grown to be an economic leader, a mediator to nearby ongoing conflict, and a nation that has strengthened bilateral ties with the U.S. in recent years, particularly in the aftermath of the troublesome tenure of one of the longest-serving heads-of-state across Africa, José Eduardo dos Santos.

“I urge whichever party is victorious to advance reforms that institutionalize democratic processes. I am pleased that international elections monitors will be present this month and encourage Angolan elections officials to adhere to their duties and maintain the integrity of the vote. Free, fair, and transparent elections with a peaceful transition of power are necessary for strong democracies. I am hopeful that Angola will live up to these ideals, and this election can therefore be an opportunity to further strengthen U.S.-Angolan relations and open the door to new commercial and geopolitical partnerships.”

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First elected to Congress in 2010, Rep. Bass is serving her sixth term in Congress where she serves as Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health and Global Human Rights. During the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, Rep. Bass served as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and was the 67<sup>th</sup> Speaker of the California Assembly from 2008-2010. California’s 37<sup>th</sup> Congressional District includes Los Angeles and Culver City.