



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

April 19, 2018

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Dannie Tillman, 323.430.7564  
dannie@cocosouthla.org

## **Community Coalition Welcomes Civil Rights Icon U.S. Rep. John Lewis**

*Congressman John Lewis and Congresswoman Karen Bass to Meet with Community Leaders to Discuss Pressing Social Issues, Including Education Equity, Criminal Justice and Bail Reform*

**\*\*\*FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2018, 1:30-3:00 PM AT COMMUNITY COALITION\*\*\***

**LOS ANGELES** — On Friday, April 20, Community Coalition will welcome distinguished U.S. Rep. John Lewis to South LA for a conversation with community leaders. The conversation will build upon recent actions and discussions around gun violence in the U.S. and in communities of color and focus on issues that continue to impact South LA residents such as education equity, criminal justice and bail reform. Congresswoman Karen Bass, founder of Community Coalition, will help to facilitate the discussion.

Inspired as a child by Dr. King, Rep. Lewis organized sit-ins at segregated lunch counters in Nashville, participated in the Freedom Rides, served as chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and assisted in orchestrating the historic March on Washington. In 1964, he helped to spearhead the march across the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma that became known as “Bloody Sunday” and worked to move the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Despite more than 40 arrests, physical attacks and serious injuries, John Lewis remained a devoted advocate of the philosophy of nonviolence. Often called “one of the most courageous persons the Civil Rights Movement ever produced,” John Lewis has dedicated his life to protecting human rights, securing civil liberties, and building what he calls “The Beloved Community” in America.

**WHAT:** Discussion with community leaders regarding issues impacting South LA, including education equity, criminal justice and bail reform

**WHO:**

- **Rep. John Lewis**
- **Rep. Karen Bass**
- Community Coalition President & CEO **Alberto Retana**
- **Community Leaders**
- Youth Leader **Edna Chavez**, Community Coalition’s South Central Youth Empowered thru Action

**WHEN:** Friday, April 20, 2018, 1:30 – 3:00 pm (**Please arrive by 2:45 pm**)

**WHERE:** Community Coalition, 8101 South Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90044

**KEY VISUAL:** Community roundtable with Rep. Lewis and Rep. Bass

**ABOUT COMMUNITY COALITION:**

*For nearly 28 years, Community Coalition has provided a hub to elevate South LA's voice and empower residents to take control over the future of their neighborhoods. Community Coalition works with residents to build a prosperous and healthy South LA with safe neighborhoods, quality schools, and a strong social safety net. The Coalition continues to work on positive economic development that reduces crime, poverty and substance abuse in South LA through resident organizing, direct advocacy and community support services.*

**###**