

## 'U.S.-ROK economic and security alliance must remain strong'

Korean American U.S. Rep. Young Kim reappointed to chair House Foreign Affairs Committee's East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee

The U.S. should pay more attention to South Korea and strengthen cooperation to prevent the U.S.-South Korea alliance from weakening amid South Korea's impeachment crisis, said Young Kim, a Korean American member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

"As South Korea goes through its recent political turmoil, we must keep our economic and security alliance strong," Kim, a Republican from California, wrote in an op-ed for The Hill on Jan. 6. "While South Korea is facing one of its greatest challenges, I believe in the commitment of the South Korean people to democracy."

Kim urged the United States to take an interest in the situation in South Korea because it is a critical ally in maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific against the threats of North Korea and China.

"While media coverage, including the U.S. media, has focused heavily on the anti-Yoon Suk Yeol protests, South Koreans who oppose the impeachment are also coming out to Gwanghwamun, the center of Seoul, every day to wave the Korean flag and the American flag. Unfortunately, Western media has largely ignored these images."

Meanwhile, Kim was recently appointed chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific.

Brian Mast (R-Florida), chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said, "Congresswoman Kim is a fighter who works tirelessly to promote American leadership around the world, including strengthening the U.S. presence in the Chinese Communist Party's backyard."

"The East Asia-Pacific region is not only America's greatest geopolitical competitor but also home to some of our strongest allies and partners," Kim said. "America's future national security depends on U.S. foreign policy decisions in this region."

"I will work in a bipartisan manner to ensure that the United States leads the way in promoting human rights in the region, supporting freedom-loving nations, strengthening free trade with our allies and holding our adversaries accountable," Kim said.

The East Asia-Pacific Subcommittee is responsible for the State Department's affairs in the East Asia-Pacific region. Kim previously served in the 118th Congress as chair of the Foreign Affairs



U.S. Rep. Young Kim

Committee's Indo-Pacific Subcommittee.

A native of Incheon, Kim spent her childhood in Seoul before moving with her family to the U.S. territory of Guam in 1975, where she attended middle and high school, and later to the U.S. mainland, where she attended the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles.

After studying business in college, she worked in a bank and in the apparel business before her husband, a local civic activist, encouraged her to enter politics, where she spent 21 years as an aide to the Korea-friendly and former Republican Congressman Ed Royce. During this time, she focused on Asian policy, particularly U.S.-South Korea relations, North Korean human rights legislation and the issue of comfort women.

Kim first ran for U.S. Congress in 2018 after serving as a California state representative (2014-2016), losing a close race before winning a rematch in 2020. Since then, she has become a fixture in the Republican Party, winning reelection in 2022 and a third term last year. [창](#)