



**Congresswoman Lori Trahan
Remarks as Delivered
Lowell Community Health Center
October 30, 2024**

Thank you, Sue. It's such a pleasure to be back here at Lowell Community Health Center. For over half a century, this remarkable institution has not only provided vital care but has grown alongside this community, standing as a beacon of health, compassion, and inclusivity.

It's inspiring to think about where the journey began – 54 years ago, a small Lowell General clinic in a modest apartment complex. Back then, the dream was simple but powerful: to create a space where everyone, regardless of their background, language, or circumstance, could access quality health care.

Today, that humble beginning has blossomed into a bustling health center employing over 500 dedicated staff members who speak 28 different languages. And that language diversity is so much more than a number – it's a testament to Lowell's vibrant, multicultural community and to Lowell Community Health Center's commitment to providing welcoming care.

The numbers speak volumes: this facility serves more than 36,000 patients each year. But the impact goes beyond the stats – it's in the lives touched, in the comfort given, and in the health restored. And as the needs of the community have evolved, so too has the center, continuing to expand its capacity and adapt to meet the growing demand.

I'm thrilled to see this evolution reflected in the expanded patient walk-in center and the new in-house pharmacy. These enhancements are critical to Lowell Community Health Center's mission and its commitment to accessible, timely care.

The expanded walk-in center, with its newly positioned, significantly enlarged waiting room, its two new exam rooms, and its dedicated triage areas, offers a more welcoming, more efficient, and more accommodating experience for every person who walks through its doors. This redesign, made possible in part by nearly \$900,000 in federal funds, doesn't just improve space; it reinforces that each patient is valued and their time respected.

And now, with the addition of a state-of-the-art pharmacy, you all are bringing a crucial resource directly to patients. Since opening, this pharmacy has served more than 2,500 patients and filled over 6,000 prescriptions, helping patients access necessary medications quickly and easily. The five service bays, improved workspace for staff, and advanced automation technology all contribute to a more streamlined experience that ultimately gets life-saving medications into the hands of those who need them.

Lowell Community Health Center's journey from an apartment-based clinic to this thriving health center is more than a story of growth – it's a testament to the strength of our community and the power of a shared commitment to care. Today, as we celebrate these new advancements, we also celebrate everyone who has worked to build this foundation and every patient who trusts Lowell CHC with their health. This center is not just a building; it's a lifeline, and it's a reminder of what we can achieve when we invest in the health and well-being of our most vulnerable.

Thank you to Sue and to everyone who has made today possible, and thank you for all the ways, big and small, you contribute to the health of Lowell. I look forward to our continued work together ensure many more years of compassionate care and to create an even brighter future for Lowell Community Health Center. Thank you.

###