

Senator Robyn Kennedy (Morning Guest Speaker)

Senator Robyn Kennedy, a lifelong resident of Worcester, serves as the State Senator for the First Worcester District. She is a dedicated champion of the care economy, focusing on strengthening services from childcare to elder care, investing in the workforce, improving regional public transportation, and addressing racial and health inequities. In her inaugural year, Senator Kennedy has been instrumental in advancing key legislative initiatives to enhance the well-being of Massachusetts residents.

As a testament to her leadership in the care economy, Senator Kennedy has championed several significant bills: (1) An Act to Promote an Enhanced Care Worker Minimum Wage: This bill creates a \$25 minimum wage for Chapter 257 care workers. The wage is then indexed to inflation. (2) An Act regarding families and children in need of assistance: This bill focuses on providing support and resources to families and children facing challenges, ensuring they receive the necessary assistance to thrive. (3) An Act relative to consumer health data: This legislation is designed to protect the health data of consumers, ensuring privacy and security in the handling of sensitive information.

Before her election, Senator Kennedy served as the Chief Operating Officer at the YWCA Central Massachusetts, where she advocated for women, children, and marginalized communities. Her public service also includes roles as Deputy Chief of Staff to former Lt. Governor Tim Murray and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Children, Youth, and Families at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

Senator Kennedy remains dedicated to fostering a more equitable and prosperous future for Worcester and the broader Commonwealth, leveraging her experience and passion to drive meaningful change.

Commissioner Seema Dixit (Morning Guest Speaker)

Seema Dixit is a seasoned public health executive with more than 25 years of leadership experience across state and local government. She currently serves as Commissioner of Health and Human Services for the City of Worcester, where she leads a comprehensive portfolio spanning public health, youth services, elderly affairs, veterans' affairs and homelessness services. In this role, she serves as the city's public health authority and a senior advisor to the Mayor and City Manager on policy, systems transformation, and cross-sector strategy.

Prior to joining Worcester, Dixit served as Deputy Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health, providing executive leadership for statewide public health systems, including environmental health, healthcare access, chronic disease prevention, and health equity. She played a central role in aligning state priorities with federal policy and funding frameworks, while strengthening performance management and cross-agency collaboration.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dixit served as Incident Commander and led Rhode Island's community mitigation strategy. She coordinated a complex, multi-agency response across government, healthcare systems, and federal partners, while advising the Governor's Office on reopening policy, vaccination strategy, and testing infrastructure.

Over the course of her career, Dixit has led diverse public health portfolios, including environmental health, infectious disease control, healthcare quality and safety, and health equity. She is widely recognized for launching Health Equity Zones, a nationally recognized, community-driven model addressing social determinants of health, and for advancing innovative strategies to improve population health outcomes and reduce disparities.

A trusted advisor to elected officials and health system leaders, Dixit is known for building high-performing teams, strengthening public trust, and advancing equity-centered policies. Her work has consistently focused on integrating public health with broader systems addressing housing, homelessness, and access to care.

She holds a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology and Health Administration and a Master of Science in International Health and Public Policy from Tufts University, as well as graduate and undergraduate degrees in Human Nutrition from SNDT Women's University in Mumbai. She is an active leader in national and regional public health organizations, including serving in executive roles with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Regional Representation, National Environmental Health Association.

Dr. Lucy Lomas, MD (Afternoon Guest Speaker)

Lucy Lomas, MD, is a board-certified OB-GYN physician with over 17 years of clinical experience and a lifelong passion for women's health and wellness.

She is the founder of LUCY, a holistic healthcare practice that centers the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of both patients and healthcare workers.

As a TEDx Roxbury speaker and wellness advocate, Dr. Lomas leads programs that support women's health across the lifespan—including hormones, menopause, and preventive care. She thrives in spaces where health education is shared through connection, storytelling, and community, and she is especially passionate about creating joyful, empowering environments where women can honor their bodies and their health.

Dr. Lomas serves as Chair of the NAACP Boston Health Committee and is a vocal advocate for health equity and birth justice. A proud graduate of the University of Southern California, she holds degrees in both Biomedical Engineering (2004) and Medicine (2009), blending scientific insight with a deep commitment to integrative, whole-person care.

Above all, Dr. Lomas is guided by love—for her children, her family, her community, and a more just and joyful healthcare system.

"I help women feel empowered about their health through education and prevention—by creating safe spaces where our bodies are celebrated."