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TWO OF FOUR DEBATES IS A GOOD START

Khazei Accepts Television Debates in Boston Area

BOSTON – Alan Khazei, U.S. Senate Candidate and Co-Founder of City Year, announced today that he will attend two Boston-area television debates in the final week of the campaign.

Answering the call of the voters of Massachusetts, Khazei is **asking** media outlets to host at least two more statewide television debates for the Democratic candidates for Senate.

"Edward M. Kennedy's Senate seat should not go quietly to lifelong politicians or those with the most campaign cash," Khazei said. "The citizens of Massachusetts deserve to take a close look at all the candidates so that they can determine who they trust most to send to Washington to deliver on the change we need — beginning by creating jobs and fixing healthcare."

"Western Massachusetts voters need to have the chance to see all the candidates on a television debate before Election Day next month," he added.

The Khazei campaign joined with the Pagliuca campaign yesterday in an open letter to the Massachusetts media calling for one debate per week. The campaigns offered to cover production costs involved with running the debate.

"Any Candidate who hopes to try to fill the immense void left by the passing of the great Senator Kennedy must have the courage and conviction to stand before the citizens of the Commonwealth and talk about the issues."

Khazei will attend the Channel 5 debate invitation for Dec. 1 as well as the Dec. 2 debate sponsored by the Boston Globe, WBUR, NECN, and Channel 2.

"It is our hope that the other broadcast media in Western Massachusetts and Boston will take us up on our offer for Dec. 3 and Dec. 4.

"Debating Democratic primary opponents is nothing compared to fighting the special interests in Washington. Senator Kennedy's successor should be able to manage more than two debates."

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Alan Khazei, founder of Be The Change, Inc. and co-founder of City Year, which inspired the creation of President Clinton's national and community service program AmeriCorps, is a nonprofit leader and lifelong public servant. In 2006, US News and World Report named Alan one of America's 25 Best Leaders, and the Boston Globe Magazine identified him as one of 11 Bostonians Changing the World.