

For Immediate Release

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**KHAZEI CHALLENGES STEPHEN COLBERT TO A DUEL OF WORDS
THROWS DOWN GAUNTLET, CALLS ON COLBERT TO MODERATE DEBATE FOR
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES IN MASS.**

BOSTON — U.S. Senate candidate and Co-Founder of City Year Alan Khazei, issued a challenge to right-wing commentator Stephen Colbert in a video today, calling on Colbert to moderate a debate between the four Democratic candidates for Senate here in Massachusetts.

"Are you tough enough to come here to Massachusetts — the birthplace of freedom, the birthplace of democracy — and moderate a debate up against four progressive Democrats?" Khazei asked Colbert in the video. Challenging Colbert to defend his right-wing views face-to-face, Khazei continued, "I'll show up anytime, anywhere, any hour, any day. ... I'll be there."

Khazei hopes that Colbert's known readiness to skewer progressive candidates with his incisive rhetoric will spur the conservative talking head to come to Massachusetts. In the video, Khazei lauds Colbert's tenacity, intelligence and reputation as a right-wing commentator. "I know four against one doesn't seem fair, but you, I think you could handle it," he said.

Khazei's only fear is that his fellow candidates will be intimidated by Colbert's reputation as a hard-hitting political analyst and back out of the debate. "The Democratic candidates in this race should not be afraid to go up against a commentator who has done so much to advance political debate in this country," Khazei said after the video was filmed. "I hope that we can all withstand his challenges and defend our views eloquently, in turn."

Khazei has been calling for more televised debates to give the voters of the Commonwealth more opportunities to compare the candidates.

Khazei appeared on Colbert's popular political show, "The Colbert Report," in January of this year.

Link to video challenge is here: www.alanforsenate.com/colbertonnotice

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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.