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KHAZEI TALKS TO VOTERS ABOUT JOBS

BOSTON – The day after the first two debates, Khazei jumped right back on the campaign trail to talk about jobs. Khazei spoke with citizens at Year Up, a non-profit organization aimed at empowering urban talent to reach their potential in the business sector. Year Up helps 18-24 year olds navigate the professional world by providing them with in-house training and apprenticeships at leading businesses.

“People are hurting and they need help. Bringing jobs to Massachusetts is the most important issue in this race, and Year Up is a great example of how I want to use ‘what works’ here in the Commonwealth to expand it and take it across the nation,” said Khazei.

City Year Alum and Year Up member, Anthony Thompson, said, “I was kind of a knucklehead in high school, you know? I didn't care or think about college and work, I didn't have many influences pushing me to think about my future. Being introduced to City Year changed everything and put me on a new path. But after several attempts to get into the workforce, I realized that I needed more education and training, and that's when my friends introduced me to Year Up. It is a challenging program, but empowering. It is giving me the education I need so that I can get a great job and have good career. That's why I'm so excited to see Alan here today. He is a big reason I've come this far.”

At the debate last night, Khazei addressed the great job losses Massachusetts and the whole country have suffered and talked about his plan to create jobs. Khazei explained that we should institute a "New Jobs Tax Credit" that encourages businesses to hire new workers.

“Massachusetts can also create tens of thousands of job opportunities by investing in cutting-edge job training both for young people and for experienced workers who are unemployed. Programs like Year Up and Youth Build headquartered in Massachusetts are strong examples,” said Khazei while speaking to youth job seekers at Year Up.

Khazei will also push to fully fund the new Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which provides up to 250,000 annual full and part-time service jobs, through hundreds of locally based nonprofit organizations.

And in an effort to keep the public conversation about jobs going, in his closing remarks at yesterday's second debate at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute, Khazei challenged his opponents to one televised debate per week until the December 8th Democratic Primary Election.

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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.