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**KHAZEI UNVEILS HEALTHCARE PLAN IN SPRINGFIELD
TOUTS ROBUST PUBLIC OPTION, AIMS TO CUT SMALL BUSINESS COSTS**

SPRINGFIELD - As the healthcare debate shifts to the U.S. Senate and unemployment rises to 10 percent, U.S. Senate candidate and Co-Founder of City Year Alan Khazei unveiled his plan to contain healthcare costs while expanding health insurance coverage. The event was held at American International College in Springfield on Monday. Khazei's health care plan is anchored by a strong public option, which promises to increase availability and quality of services while emphasizing strong cost-cutting measures, especially for small business owners.

"We are approaching a watershed moment for healthcare in America. Healthcare reform must simultaneously increase the quality of care and the efficiency of healthcare delivery," Khazei stated. "We can reduce costs if we are smart. We can move to a system of prevention and wellness, but we need to work across the aisle, get more than 60 votes, and get health care reform."

Khazei's healthcare reform plan would aggressively seek ways to cut costs for the average American while ensuring that all Americans have access to quality healthcare. His plan calls for comprehensive reform that ends insurance company abuse and includes a strong public option to provide real competition and control costs. Khazei would also create an independent Health Care Quality Council to identify and promote best practices for improving the quality of care while reducing healthcare costs. His reform plan would also identify, support, and reward innovative solutions for reducing obesity, smoking, and other behavioral sources of chronic healthcare costs.

Khazei would put citizens' interests over the special interests by fighting healthcare lobbyists and calling for aggressive campaign-finance reform while improving patient safety and ensuring that all patients who are injured receive fair and fast compensation. And Khazei would pursue innovative medical malpractice reform to attack the root cause of defensive medicine.

Khazei is not a stranger to the healthcare debate. As an entrepreneur who grew an enterprise from two co-founders to thousands of employees, Khazei knows first-hand how rising insurance premiums impact a business's ability to make payroll or invest in growth. Khazei's plan will slow these costs with common-sense approaches to eliminate waste and inefficiencies while improving patient quality and supporting our physicians, nurses, and other health care providers.

"There are six health care lobbyists for every member of Congress. The lobbyists and PACs are spending 380 million to stop health care. I'm not taking PAC and lobby money. I only want to be accountable to the citizens of Massachusetts. I will fight in the Senate to get a robust public option. I'll build a citizen movement," Khazei said.

Khazei's approach to increase access to health care, improve quality and patient safety, and lower costs and premiums is a fiscally sound one. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that both the House and Senate health care bills will yield net reductions in the federal deficit over the next decade.

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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.

Paid for by Citizens for Alan Khazei

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