

**For Immediate Release**

November 11, 2009

Contact: Dave Jacobson

c: (857) 249-2744

o: (617) 695-0309

e: [press@alanforsenate.com](mailto:press@alanforsenate.com)



**Over 2,000 Uninsured Veterans Died Last Year.  
Khazei Commits to Veterans, Health Care Reform**

BOSTON — At an event Wednesday honoring military veterans and their families, U.S. Senate candidate and Co-Founder of City Year Alan Khazei responded to the chilling study released by Harvard Medical School, which reported that an estimated six veterans per day died preventable deaths last year because of inadequate health insurance — adding up to approximately 2,266 veterans, twice the number of troops killed in Afghanistan since 2001.

"This is unacceptable," Khazei said. "Our veterans should be receiving the highest level of care in honor of their service to our country. If not even our veterans can get adequate healthcare, the current system is broken. Health insurance is a right, particularly for the men and women who have served our country."

Wednesday's Veterans' Day event was organized by Citizens for Alan Khazei and Operation Troop Support. Volunteers, including Khazei and his family, assembled and sent over 100 care packages for our deployed troops. Established in March 2003, Operation Troop Support is an organization from Boston's north shore area that serves our deployed men and women in uniform from across the country.

Khazei recognizes that insufficient healthcare is not the only challenge facing returning service members and their families. Veterans also face homelessness, record levels of combat stress, and unemployment back at home. "Those who have risked everything to defend our freedoms deserve more from their country," Khazei said.

Khazei's Veterans Plan outlines his dedication to providing for veterans and their families with both physical and mental care and facilitating their transition back to civilian life. He strongly supports the Obama administration's increased funding for mental health issues in military service.

The Harvard study also reported that an uninsured person is 40 percent more likely to die prematurely. Khazei supports a strong public option that will provide affordable healthcare to average Americans who currently find it out of their reach. "We cannot obstruct the passage of health care reform any longer," Khazei said. "We cannot tolerate this devastating status quo. American citizens are dying every day because of inadequate access to healthcare, and it is our responsibility to halt that as soon as we possibly can."

###

*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.*