

For Immediate Release

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KHAZEI CHALLENGES BOSTON CHAMBER, PRIMARY RIVALS TO OPPOSE CASINO GAMBLING AT US SENATE DEBATE

Cites Rising Crime and Addiction Rates

Calls on Citizens to Sign Petition on His Website to Stop Casinos in Mass.

BOSTON – At the U.S. Senate debate for the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce this morning, Democratic candidate and Co-Founder of City Year, Alan Khazei, voiced his strong opposition to a proposal that would bring casino gambling to Massachusetts.

“I am strongly opposed to gambling in Massachusetts. I understand that people are hurting and need work, but we can create good, high-paying jobs in green industries and clean energy, supporting small business and emphasizing health care, education, bio-tech, tourism, and other industries where Massachusetts has a competitive advantage,” Khazei said in his closing statement at the U.S. Senate debate. “New gambling machines prey especially on primarily low-income families and people suffering from addiction—the very people who are struggling the most in this terrible economy.”

“I am deeply concerned about the lobbyists and special interests behind this idea and their pursuit of personal gain,” said Khazei. “Bringing casinos to Massachusetts would irrevocably change the nature of our Commonwealth, the very birthplace of American democracy. Once we bring casinos to Massachusetts we will never be able to reverse that monumental decision. I’m the father of two young children, and I don’t want them to grow up in a state with casinos. Lobbyists and big corporate PACs are pushing this. Citizens can stop this. We have to fight the special interests. I urge Attorney General Martha Coakley and Congressman Michael Capuano to take a stand against casinos in Massachusetts.”

The Boston Business Journal in 2007 wrote that when casinos move into a neighborhood, they lower the standard of living by attracting only low-wage casino jobs which merely act as a jobs transfer and not a jobs creator.

The United States International Gambling Report Series demonstrates how casinos are most destructive to the people who are the hardest hit by financial loss. National statistics show that every tax dollar generated from casino gambling costs taxpayers \$3 in social welfare costs. In addition, new crime in a community increases 8 to 10 percent on average each year after a casino opens.

Khazei will attend a second debate tonight at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute hosted by the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum at 7p.m. To view the online petition, please visit

<http://www.alanforsenate.com/page/s/nocasinos>

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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.