

# STEVEN BADDOUR

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### STATEMENT BY SENATOR STEVEN A. BADDOUR (D-METHUEN) ON HIS DECISION REGARDING POTENTIAL RACE FOR FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

METHUEN, MA-March 12, 2007 - Over the last several months, I have had the rare opportunity to explore running for Congress in the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional district. The possibility of Congressman Marty Meehan leaving elective office has allowed me to have discussions with family and friends about whether I could better help my district in Washington, D.C. I have also had ample time to think carefully about my future, my interests, and most importantly my family.

My hometown of Methuen has been good to me – I was born and raised here, work here every day and now can fulfill my dream to raise my family here. The counsel I have received throughout this process has been invaluable to me. I know I am lucky and blessed to have such a supportive family and friends.

In the end, I realized that while any one can be a Congressman, I am the only one who can be a father to my two daughters, Isabella and Victoria. And that is the reason that I announce today that I will not seek election to Congress should Marty Meehan step down this year. Nothing brings me greater joy than spending time with my wife Ann and my daughters. They are smart, funny, and my absolute joy. But my daughters are very young, and I want the opportunity to see them become the incredible adults I know they will grow to be. But I want to do more than watch them from a distance, or to be a part-time parent. The saying goes that a hundred years from now, it will not matter what your bank account was, what sort of house you lived in, or the kind of car you drove – but the world may be different because you were important in the life of a child. In my heart, I know that the most important thing I will ever do is make a difference in the lives of my own children. I can accomplish that better by a short ride from Boston...and here at home.

I also know that there is much work left for me in the State Senate. I have had the honor of working for the people of this district as an Assistant Attorney General and now at the State House. I am proud of my record of fighting for the needs of working families in the Merrimack Valley—yours and mine.

Our state is facing tough challenges. We need strong leaders committed to working on issues as far-ranging as ensuring that our economy continues to grow, making sure our schools are high quality, safe institutions for learning, continuing the fight to make health care more accessible and affordable for everyone, helping to guide our state's environmental policy into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and providing our public safety community with the resources they need to protect our families and our neighborhoods.

I have a record of accomplishment on these issues and I plan to continue leading the charge in the State Senate on behalf of those who have honored me, by electing me. I am committed to continue showing my colleagues at the State House that the Merrimack Valley is an incredible place to live, work and raise a family, and to fight for the investments we need to succeed.

This has been a difficult decision in some respects but I think if you look at the people standing around me today, you will understand that in the end it wasn't. Thank you.

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