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US Senate candidate plans to address ‘free-speech’ rally on Common



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JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

Shiva Ayyadurai.

By [Jim O'Sullivan](#) | GLOBE STAFF AUGUST 14, 2017

A Cambridge Republican candidate challenging US Senator Elizabeth Warren plans to speak

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Shiva Ayyadurai, who has staked out a populist stance in the early months of the GOP primary, confirmed Monday that he planned to speak at the rally. Event organizers, who have [sought to distance themselves](#) from the violent turn in Charlottesville, have listed Ayyadurai online as a confirmed speaker.

Last Saturday evening, hours after an Ohio man [allegedly committed second-degree murder](#) in Charlottesville by driving into a crowd of counter-protestors, Ayyadurai tweeted, “The Establishment creates race war. THEY divide US to never address fundamental economic issues. Poor Americans, black & white, need to UNITE.”

In response to questions via email, Ayyadurai said “of course” he was concerned that the Boston rally could turn similarly violent, “because [r]ace [w]ars are manufactured and fueled by the Establishment to distract from the economic problems that they have caused and profit from ... The Establishment creates and funds groups like Antifa, KKK and Black Lives Matter with the aim of dividing everyday poor black and white Americans.”

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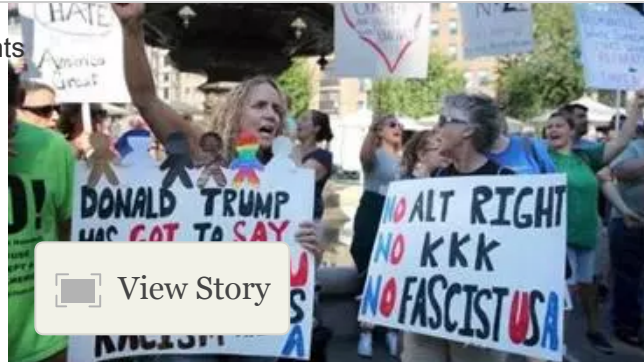
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Ayyadurai, who claims to have invented email, said, “I condemn the violence, of course. But, let us see its true source and not be hoodwinked. Poor whites and poor blacks have all been

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Free-speech rally has some in Hub concerned

“I don’t want that type of hate” coming into our city, Mayor Martin J. Walsh said of the rally scheduled for Saturday. “We don’t need that.”

Disheartened and distressed, some turn to faith

Ayyadurai, a vocal supporter of President Trump, has questioned the pro-Trump credentials of another Senate candidate, state Representative Geoff Diehl, a Whitman Republican.

In an email, Diehl strategist Holly Robichaud said, “Geoff believes that the Nazis, KKK and white supremacists are repulsive and evil. He is appalled by their words and actions and strongly believes we all have more obligations to speak out against bigotry, hateful propaganda and anti-Semitism. We don’t need anyone associated with what happened in Charlottesville organizing a rally in Boston.”

The weekend events in Charlottesville, which began prior to the “Unite the Right” rally organized to protest removal of a Robert E. Lee statue, brought a wave of condemnations from national Republicans. Trump has drawn criticism from fellow Republicans for not specifically calling out the white supremacists and Nazi sympathizers who staged the rally.

Republican State Party Chairwoman Kirsten Hughes gave a clipped response when asked



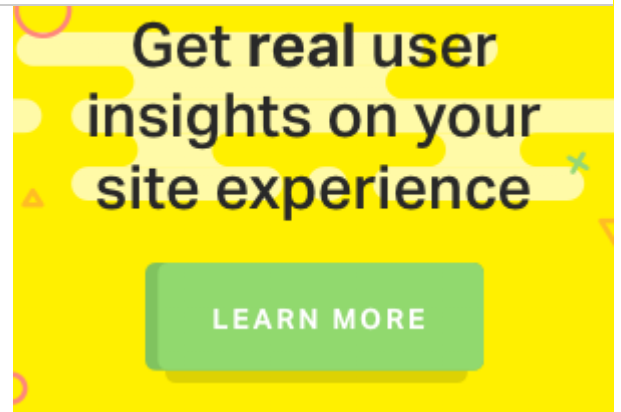
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a phone interview.

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Warren enters the race in a strong position over the potential GOP nominees. A June WBUR/MassINC poll found Warren earning 61 percent to Ayyadurai's 25 percent, and gave her 60 percent to Diehl's 29 percent. Few voters had heard of either Ayyadurai or Diehl in the survey.



At least two other Republicans, businessman John Kingston and longtime GOP operative Beth Lindstrom, have also taken steps toward a Senate bid.

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