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AYOTTE APPLAUDS ADVANCEMENTS IN PROSTHETICS FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS
NH company demos first bionic lower-leg system to replicate muscles and tendons

Manchester, NH – U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, welcomed news that a Manchester-based company will host a demonstration today of a new and innovative prosthetic device for lower-limb amputees, including wounded service members and veterans. Next Step Orthotics and Prosthetics, based in Manchester, is partnering with iWalk, a Massachusetts bionic technology company, to demo the PowerFoot BiOM -- a cutting-edge bionic lower-leg system that restores natural movement for lower-limb amputees by replicating muscles and tendons.

“Our wounded warriors have sacrificed so much, and they deserve the very best available care and treatment for their injuries,” said Senator Ayotte. “This new technology has the potential to dramatically improve their lives, and I’m pleased that a New Hampshire company is taking a lead in advancing this product.”

Tim McCarthy, President & CEO of iWalk, said, “On behalf of iWalk, I would like to thank Senator Ayotte for her commitment to helping ensure that American service members and veterans receive the most advanced prosthetic devices. The evolution of bionic technology continues to improve the quality of life for soldiers suffering from mobility challenges. Our Service Members have sacrificed so much for our country and deserve the most innovative care.”

On July 20, the U.S. Senate passed Senator Ayotte’s amendment to the Fiscal Year 2012 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill that would help speed next generation prosthetics to wounded warriors. The Ayotte amendment requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to send Congress a comprehensive plan detailing a strategy and timetable to make advanced prosthetics available to service members and veterans more quickly. Under the amendment, the Secretary will be required to submit a report within 90 days of enactment to the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Veterans’ Affairs outlining solutions to the existing challenges that delay the delivery of these prosthetics.

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