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Thank You, Senator Snowe

Being an amputee has its share of challenges. All of us rely on and appreciate our friends who help us restore mobility, productivity and fullness to our lives. Senator Snowe has proven herself to be a great friend to all of us with limb loss and mobility impairment—in Maine and across the country. We want to thank you for your friendship and support, and particularly for your leadership in the last Congress as a key sponsor for the bill to assure fair insurance coverage for prosthetic arms and legs and other habilitative devices and care. That support prompted us to name you as the recipient of the Amputee Coalition of America and American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association's 2009 Distinguished Legislative Achievement Award.

When people talk about their pick for "person of the year," Senator Snowe, you are our pick! But the work is not finished.

While Maine's state legislature has led the way with enactment of a fair insurance coverage for prosthetics and orthotics law, half of the health insurance plans in Maine aren't required to abide by this law because they are regulated federally. The estimated 6,451 amputees in Maine and the two million amputees in the US need speedy enactment of the Federal Orthotic and Prosthetic Parity bill.

So, in this season of being thankful for all of our support and in addition to saying "thanks" we also ask for your continued help in the 111th Congress to introduce and pass a Senate counterpart bill to H.R. 2575, similar to S. 3517 from the last session.

Arms and legs are not luxury items and help us be active, productive citizens. Passing a fair insurance law will solve mobility problems for millions of Americans and save, not spend, taxpayer dollars.

Thank you for your support and continued help.

The undersigned, writing on behalf of the 6,451 amputees in Maine, and the two million amputees nationwide who are eager to have the honor and privilege to work with you again!

Sincerely,

Greater Waterville Amputee Support Group (Waterville, Maine)
Dave Emery (York, Maine)
Roni Emery (York, Maine)

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