

Full Text of Recovery Video

Senator Kirk:

I suffered a stroke on the 21st of January, and thanks to the doctors, nurses and professionals at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, the RIC, I am walking again, leading to my hope to climb the 45 steps that my staff counted from the parking lot to the Senate front door, to fight for the people of Illinois.

I am currently enrolled in a walking study for stroke patients. It is described as an intensive program. One of the more interesting setups that they had was a set of wraps around my legs with silver balls to be recorded so a stick figure could be generated on the computer. They have some devious ways of making things more difficult on you. Yesterday I was wearing a ten-pound weight; they described it as a weight of a baby anchor, which really does slow you down.

Sometimes, Dr. Hornby picks up the pace and makes you work really hard. This is the standard speed of a walker. Before, whenever they said we're going to walk over ground - that was a five-alarm fire. Knowing that it was going to be really hard. There came a time at the RIC when they would say, just to do a lap of the hospital floor - now its no problem.

I want to thank everyone especially for the patience they have given me to recover from a big stroke. I want to thank the people of Illinois for granting me the honor to represent them in the United States Senate. I cannot wait to go back to work to vote to spend less, borrow less and tax less to help fix our economy.

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