



U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte

Crew and U.S. Virginia-class Attack Submarine

## Ayotte calls for 2 new submarines annually between '16 and '20

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March 25, 2015

KITTERY, Maine - New Hampshire Republican Sen. Kelly Ayotte announced on Tuesday that she's advocating for two new Virginia Class submarines to be procured every year between 2016 and 2020.

In a press release, Ayotte said the call for the 10 new submarines was a continuation of "her efforts to sustain America's Naval power and advocate for Portsmouth Naval Shipyard." She announced that she has

urged leaders of the Senate Armed Services Committee to authorize the Department of the Navy's request for the new subs citing "the importance of attack submarines to U.S. national security" and "the declining size of the nation's attack submarine fleet in the coming years."

Ayotte, chair of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, was described in the release as "a staunch advocate for Portsmouth Naval Shipyard workers, who play a critical role in maintaining the Virginia Class submarine fleet."

"The readiness of the U.S. attack submarine fleet depends on skilled workers, like those at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, which was the first shipyard to perform depot-level maintenance on the Virginia Class submarine," Ayotte said.

At a hearing before the Seapower Subcommittee last week, Vice Admiral William Hilarides, commander of Naval Sea Systems Command, said the shipyard is "performing at a very high level," Ayotte reported.

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