



# North Dakota House of Representatives

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## Representative Landon Bahl

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## COMMITTEES:

Industry, Business and Labor  
Government and Veterans Affairs

Mr. Chairman and members of the E&E Appropriations Committee,

Good morning. For the record, my name is Landon Bahl, and I have the privilege of representing District 17 in the House. I am here today in support of House Bill 1221. After speaking with the bill sponsor, I understand that this bill presents an opportunity to fund transformative initiatives, one of which could be the establishment of the North Dakota Center for Aerospace Medicine (NDCAM) at UND's John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences, in coordination with the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, as proposed in House Bill 1612.

Originally, House Bill 1612 sought \$2 million in funding. However, I introduced an amendment to reduce the appropriation to \$500,000, with the hope of securing additional funding through the fund created by House Bill 1221.

To illustrate the impact full funding for HB 1221 could have, consider the need for the North Dakota Center for Aerospace Medicine. North Dakota has long been a leader in aviation, home to the world's top aviation school, a thriving UAS sector, and critical military aviation operations. However, we must also lead in supporting the mental health and protection from the FAA of our aviation professionals. Pilots, air traffic controllers, and others in the industry face immense pressures, often suffering in silence due to fear of career repercussions. While we cannot change FAA federal regulations, we *can* create resources and support systems right here in North Dakota by leveraging our higher education institutions, specifically, a partnership between UND's School of Medicine and School of Aerospace Sciences.

Mr. Chairman, I respectfully encourage a *do pass* recommendation on House Bill 1221 with full funding. I am happy to stand for any questions.

Regards,  
Landon Bahl