

I am writing in strong support of House Bill No. 1612. This legislation is a crucial step toward addressing the urgent need for improved mental health and medical resources for pilots.

John Hauser's last request was simple yet profound: "If you can do anything for me, try to change the FAA rules so that other young pilots don't have to go through what I went through." His words serve as a call to action. No pilot should feel trapped, and no family should have to suffer an avoidable loss. This bill would provide vital support to ensure that pilots have access to the mental health and medical resources they need to continue flying safely.

Pilots endure immense mental and physical stresses that few other professions experience. Ensuring they have proper support is not just a matter of safety—it is also an act of compassion for their families and loved ones. House Bill No. 1612 will enhance access to medical certification assistance, streamline aviation medical processes, and strengthen research in aerospace medicine. Additionally, the \$2 million appropriation for this initiative will create jobs, attract top-tier aviation medical professionals to North Dakota, and expand educational opportunities in this field.

I urge this committee to consider a do pass recommendation to the house floor to safeguard the health and safety of aviation professionals.

Thank You,

Ethan Harsell

District 43