

Robert Muhs, Jr
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To: North Dakota House Human Services Committee

I am writing to state my strong support for **HB1612 – Establishment of the North Dakota Center for Aerospace Medicine**

Aerospace Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) licensed professionals face mental and physical stresses in their professional lives. For those licensed professionals experiencing these stresses can lead some to hide their problems in order to maintain their FAA Certificates. Unfortunately, some UND flight students, pilots and alumni have taken their lives trying to work with these stresses. It is critically important need that they have access to the proper mental health and wellness resources to resources to navigate these challenges.

Establishing the North Dakota Center for Aerospace Medicine provides a vital resource for UND Aerospace students to gain access mental health and wellness, assistance with medical certification, critical research and collaboration with the FAA, aviation medical examiners, and education and outreach. The Center will enrich the education of students and aerospace medicine and the broader aerospace community's understanding of the stresses and challenges aviation professionals face in their careers.

As I proud UND Odegard School Alumnus, I ask your support for this bill.

Best Regards,

Robert K Muhs, Jr
UND Class of 1977