

Greeting members of the ND House Human Services committee,

I am writing you to testify in favor of House Bill 1612 establishing an aerospace medicine center in North Dakota. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) which manages all regulations relating to airman medical certification has been trying to undergo reforms nationwide in this area. From my experience as an aviation educator and pilot, medical certificates have become a growing frustration in the industry. While the ensuring the health and welfare of all pilots and aircrew is important, in recent years difficulties relating to timeliness and accessibility of Human Intervention Motivation Study (HIMS) Airman Medical Examiners (AME) has made the process for some cumbersome and expensive.

The biggest difficulty has been in mental health; while I think it's appropriate to state the mental health has always been a difficulty, our culture around it has changed for the better. The downside is that FAA hasn't kept up, and so much younger people than before have found themselves having to attend the HIMS program, the closest of which is Minneapolis. The stress and anxiety this causes is compounded by how far they must travel, the missed work, and the extra expenses. Many need to attend multiple appointments, and often spend a few days in follow-ups. Having an aerospace medicine center would be very helpful in that regard.

I advise you work with FAA in establishing it to proper standards and ensure you have qualified AMEs and support staff. This would help alleviate the burden of people who need to attend HIMS and help us form the future of aviation in a more effective way. I urge all members of the committee and the state house of representatives to support this bill and help North Dakota remain a leader in the aerospace industry.

Sincerely,

Lamar Murchison