

Tajae Viaene Director of Flight School Operations Fargo Jet Center 01/27/2025

Dear Members of the North Dakota Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed bill to further develop the Aerospace Medicine Center at the University of North Dakota (UND). This initiative represents a critical opportunity to advance aviation safety and medical services for pilots across North Dakota, particularly in our rural communities.

As the leader of a team of flight instructors at the Fargo Jet Center Flight School, I am deeply committed to the health and well-being of the pilots I work with every day. Aviation is a demanding field, and ensuring that pilots have access to specialized medical resources—such as HIMS Aviation Medical Examiners (AMEs) and HIMS psychologists—is essential to maintaining their health, safety, and ability to perform their duties.

The proposed funding for the Aerospace Medicine Center is more than an investment in UND—it is an investment in the future of aviation in North Dakota. By enabling the center to serve not only student pilots but also aviation professionals across the state, this bill will help strengthen the safety and sustainability of our industry. Importantly, it will also provide much-needed access to specialized aviation medical care for pilots in rural areas, who often face significant barriers to receiving such services.

North Dakota has long been a leader in aviation, and this initiative reflects our state's ongoing commitment to innovation, safety, and excellence. I urge you to support this legislation and help UND continue to make a meaningful impact on our aviation community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions or require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely, Tajae Viaene Director of Flight School Operations Fargo Jet Center <u>tviaene@fargojet.com</u>