United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 2, 2016

Michael P. Huerta, Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20571

Dear Administrator Huerta,

We write today to express our support and appreciation for your leadership and for the work being done by your team to develop regulations that will enable the third class medical reform provisions, included in the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 (PL 114-190), to be implemented within the 180-day time line outlined in the statute.

We encourage the FAA to ensure that these regulations follow the intent of the new law, which is to remove bureaucracy, red tape, cost, and delays from the cumbersome process that exists today while maintaining a safe general aviation pilot population. Moreover, this bipartisan compromise also relies on the education of general aviation pilots with respect to aeromedical awareness.

As you know, a 2014 safety enhancement, implemented by the FAA-Industry General Aviation Joint Steering Committee (GAJSC) led the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's Air Safety Institute to develop a medical education course that can be used by all pilots for free, regardless of certification level, to educate them on medical fitness and certain health conditions that could impact the safe operations of an aircraft. The intent of the authors was to use this course to fulfill the requirements included in the statute.

We also understand that the course recommendations were developed by medical subject matter experts in partnership with the FAA Office of Aerospace Medicine and that the Agency will again review the AOPA Air Safety Institute course before it can be administered, according to the statute, to the pilot population at large.

Thank you again for your time and positive consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

James M. Inhofe
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

Roy Blunt
United States Senator

John Boozman
United States Senator

Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Bill Cassidy
United States Senator

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Mike Crapo
United States Senator

Steve Daines
United States Senator

Mike Enzi
United States Senator

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator

Dean Heller
United States Senator

John Hoeven
United States Senator

Ron Johnson
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Jerry Moran
United States Senator

Rob Portman
United States Senator

James E. Risch
United States Senator

Pat Roberts
United States Senator

M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator

Marco Rubio
United States Senator

Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

Thom Tillis
United States Senator

Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator