Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 28, 2016

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

Dear Administrator Huerta,

As members of the House General Aviation Caucus, we write today to express our appreciation for your leadership and 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 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 seeks to promote 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, to educate them on medical fitness and certain health conditions that could impact the safe operations of an aircraft. We understand that the course recommendations were developed by medical subject matter experts in partnership with the FAA Office of Aerospace Medicine.

We also understand 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. As this review is conducted, we encourage the FAA to consider whether the course could fulfill the educational requirements included in the FAA Extension Act.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this issue and we look forward to working with your office to ensure timely implementation of these important reforms. Should you have any questions or require additional information please contact Parker Reynolds in Rep. Todd Rokita's office at Parker.Reynolds@mail.house.gov or 202-225-5037.

Sincerely,

Todd Rokita
Member of Congress

Sam Graves
Member of Congress

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