



Pilots for HIMS Reform

P4HR

March 4, 2026

Dr. Susan Northrup
Federal Air Surgeon
Federal Aviation Administration
Office of Aerospace Medicine
800 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20591

Subject: Request for Clarification Regarding Reported Statement to HIMS Aeromedical Examiners

Dear Dr. Northrup,

Pilots for HIMS Reform has recently become aware of a message circulating within the aviation community that attributes a concerning statement to a senior individual associated with the FAA's Human Intervention Motivation Study (HIMS) program.

According to the message, HIMS Aeromedical Examiners were reportedly told that if any physician were to receive greater than a 50 percent positive rating on social media platforms, that physician could be subject to dismissal. The statement has been widely interpreted within the pilot community as implying that favorable public perception of HIMS physicians may be viewed negatively within the program.

If this statement was in fact made, it raises significant questions about the expectations placed upon physicians participating in the HIMS program and about the broader culture surrounding the aeromedical certification process.

In nearly every other area of medicine, patient trust, communication, and positive feedback are viewed as indicators of effective medical care. The suggestion that physicians might face adverse consequences for maintaining positive relationships with the individuals they evaluate would appear inconsistent with widely accepted medical ethics and professional standards.

Because HIMS Aeromedical Examiners hold substantial influence over the careers and livelihoods of pilots participating in the program, it is essential that the aviation community have confidence that medical decisions are being made based on independent clinical judgment and objective medical evidence.



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In light of the concerns raised by this report, we respectfully request clarification from the Federal Aviation Administration regarding the following:

1. Whether the statement attributed to a senior HIMS official was in fact made.
2. If so, the context in which the statement was delivered.
3. Whether the FAA maintains any policy or expectation that discourages HIMS Aeromedical Examiners from receiving favorable feedback or maintaining positive professional relationships with pilots.
4. What safeguards exist to ensure that physicians participating in the HIMS program are able to exercise independent medical judgment without institutional pressure.

The FAA's aeromedical certification system carries profound consequences for aviation professionals. Transparency and clarity regarding the standards applied within programs such as HIMS are therefore essential to maintaining confidence in the integrity of the system.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns further if helpful.

Respectfully,

Maurice MacEwen
Co-Founder
Pilots for HIMS Reform

Mike Danford
Co-Founder
Pilots for HIMS Reform

[REDACTED]
Co-Founder
Pilots for HIMS Reform

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Mike Danford (Mar 4, 2026 14:50:33 CST)

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