



# AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

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March 16, 2012

The Honorable Patty Murray

Chairman

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Appropriations

Room S 128, The Capitol

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Appropriations

Room S 146A, the Capitol

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Murray and Ranking Member Collins:

I am writing in support of the Human Intervention Motivation Study (HIMS), a critical health program for professional airline pilots. HIMS is a federally-funded prototype alcohol and drug assistance program that coordinates the identification, assessment and medical re-certification of flight officers. It is a highly successful collaboration between the FAA, air carriers and pilot representatives.

The HIMS program was last appropriated in FY2010 for a three-year cycle (PL 111-117). Specifically, \$600,000 was directed to continue the HIMS program for commercial airline pilots through FY 2012. For each fiscal year, the FAA provided \$200,000 to continue the work of the HIMS program. For FY2013, ALPA supports a funding level of **\$945,000** to continue the program through FY2015.

Under the HIMS program, airlines, pilot representatives, medical professionals and the FAA have coordinated to build carrier-based programs that identify and rehabilitate alcohol or drug-dependent pilots. The HIMS program provides educational materials and conducts seminars and outreach to the pilot community. HIMS coordinates the identification, treatment and

medical re-certification and return to the cockpit of flight officers with substance problems. HIMS does not provide actual treatment. Peer identification and intervention are key components of this program. It is an industry-wide effort in which companies, pilot unions and the FAA work together to further air safety and preserver careers.

By any measure, the HIMS program has been a resounding success. The long-term success rate is 85 to 90 percent. A funding level of \$945,000 for FY2013-15 allows for the continued administration of the current program based on actual administrative costs. It will also enable the program to reach a wider audience and to train doctors and other professionals. The HIMS program is an important safety tool for our aviation system. We urge you to provide appropriate funding to continue the critical work of this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald Lee Moak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lee Moak  
President

CC: The Honorable Daniel Inouye, Chairman  
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member  
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
Members