

Aerospace Medical Association



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January 19, 1995

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Wolf:

On January 11, 1995, Ms. A. Mary Schiavo (Inspector General, US Department of Transportation) in her testimony before the House Subcommittee on Transportation and Related Agencies recommended eliminating funding for the Civil Aeromedical Institute (CAMI). Furthermore, she stated that this could be done "without nationwide impact".

As President of the Aerospace Medical Association representing approximately 4,000 physicians and scientists, I strongly urge you to oppose Ms. Schiavo's recommendation. US Air carriers have had an unprecedented and enviable safety record over the past several decades. This outstanding record is due, in part, to the efforts over the years of the men and women of CAMI.

Specifically, CAMI has a certification, training, and research function. The Institute medically certifies all airmen in the US including airline, commercial, and general aviation pilots. The CAMI faculty trains all aviation medical examiners (they perform physical examinations on all pilots) and offers physiological training to pilots. The Institute conducts a premier research program in cabin safety, cockpit resource management, biodynamics, protection and survival, toxicology and accident investigation among many other areas. To state that doing away with these activities would be "without nationwide impact" is naive, if not irresponsible.

CAMI is a unique FAA Institute vital to aviation safety. I again urge you to ensure its proper funding. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Heimbach, M.D., Ph.D.
President

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