

STATEMENT OF  
THE HONORABLE JERRY F. COSTELLO  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION  
HEARING ON  
FAA'S OVERSIGHT OF FALSIFIED AIRMAN MEDICAL CERTIFICATE APPLICATIONS  
JULY 17, 2007

- I want to welcome everyone to this hearing on the *FAA's Oversight of Falsified Airman Medical Certificate Applications*.
  
- In July 2005, the Department of Transportation's Inspector General found "egregious cases" of pilots failing to disclose debilitating medical conditions on their applications for Airman Medical Certificates. The U.S. Attorney's Office prosecuted more than 40 cases, but hundreds more could have been pursued if adequate resources had been available.
  
- The DOT IG made three recommendations in that report and FAA is actively pursuing those recommendations. In April 2007, the FAA began working to implement a strategy

and system to coordinate with the Social Security Administration to verify information on Airman Medical Certificate applications. Further, the FAA is revising its application form to explicitly ask the applicant if they are receiving medical disability benefits. Both are important changes and I am interested in hearing more from Nick Sabatini and Calvin Scovell on this development.

- The FAA has some of the strictest medical requirements in the world. By taking the necessary steps to improve the process by establishing a way to verify medical information reported to the FAA, we continue to ensure the safety of the pilot and that of the flying public.
  
- I am also pleased that AOPA, the largest civil aviation organization in the world, has developed a four point plan of

action to educate pilots and to address the problem. I am interested in hearing more about this from Phil Boyer.

➤ I have continuously said that although the United States has the safest air transportation system in the world, we cannot rely on or be satisfied with our past success. We must all work together to ensure the highest level of safety for the traveling public.

➤ **Before I recognize Mr. Petri for his opening statement, I ask unanimous consent to allow 2 weeks for all Members to revise and extend their remarks and to permit the submission of additional statements and materials by Members and witnesses. Without objection, so ordered.**