

Senators Secure Senate Commerce Committee Approval For Mental Health In Aviation Act

Senators John Hoeven and Tammy Duckworth last week announced unanimous approval by the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee for the Mental Health in Aviation Act. This bipartisan legislation, which modernizes the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) approach to mental health and medical certification, will now move to the full Senate for consideration.

"Our pilots, air traffic controllers and aviation professionals need to maintain their mental health in order to do their jobs and keep the traveling public safe," said Hoeven. "The Mental Health in Aviation Act will address mental health challenges in the aviation industry, promote early intervention, provide additional resources to the FAA's Office of Aerospace Medicine, and support the well-being of aviation professionals and the overall safety of our skies. We appreciate the support of the Commerce Committee in advancing our legislation to the full Senate, where we will continue our efforts to secure passage of this legislation."

"Our aviation system depends on the well-being of our pilots and air traffic controllers, who operate under an immense amount of stress - their careers should never be threatened because they dared to seek the mental health care they need," said Duckworth. "I'm proud our commonsense, bipartisan bill that would make it easier for our aviation workforce to take care of themselves without fearing for their job security passed through committee. Now, the committee must also advance our other bipartisan legislation that would help inform the aviation workforce which medications they're allowed to take, and the Senate must swiftly pass both bills. It's the least we can do to show current and future pilots and air traffic controllers that we are invested in them and committed to dismantling the dangerous culture of silence surrounding mental health in the aviation industry."

The Mental Health in Aviation Act improves aviation safety by encouraging both pilots and air traffic controllers to seek mental health care, when needed, while reducing the stigma associated with mental health and the potential impact on a pilot's career. Under current FAA regulations, pilots and air traffic controllers are required to obtain and maintain an FAA Medical Certification, which requires the disclosure of medical treatment, including

for mental and behavioral health treatment. Once disclosed, even pilots with minor or well-managed conditions can face prolonged uncertainty and bureaucratic delays as they work through the existing processes that allow for treatment and safe return to operation. Further, the FAA has limited psychiatric staff to process pilot mental health evaluations, compounding the bureaucratic delays and leading to a significant backlog of special issuance applications.

In recognition of these challenges, the FAA convened the Mental Health and Aviation Medical Clearances Rulemaking Committee (ARC) in 2023 to assess barriers for pilots and controllers to acknowledge, seek care and treatment, and report mental health concerns, and to develop and implement policy and protocol recommendations. The ARC delivered 24 targeted recommendations aimed at removing obstacles to mental health care while upholding the highest of aviation safety standards.

The Mental Health in Aviation Act builds on these recommendations to modernize the FAA's approach, promote early intervention, provide additional resources to the FAA's Office of Aerospace Medicine, and support the well-being of aviation professionals and the overall safety of our skies. Specifically, the legislation would require the FAA to:

- Modernize mental health guidance regulations for pilots and air traffic controllers to encourage the early disclosure and treatment of mental health conditions, and to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health in aviation.
- Annually review the FAA's Special Issuance Medical Certification process, appropriate mental health treatments and medication use, and overall mental health training for Aviation Medical Examiners.
- Allocate \$15 million annually (FY2026-FY2028) to the FAA's Office of Aerospace Medicine to expand and train additional medical examiners, including specialists, to

improve the efficiency of the FAA's Special Issuance Medical Certification process.

• A public information campaign to help reduce the stigma around mental health care in aviation and encourage pilots and air traffic controllers to seek treatment.

This legislation builds upon efforts taken at the University of North Dakota (UND) after John Hauser, a UND Aviation student, took his own life in an aircraft in October 2021. These efforts include the establishment of:

• The John A. Hauser Mental Health in Aviation Initiative Fund at UND, which helped develop the Up-Lift Peer Support program, to offer mental health support for aviation students from their own peers. This first of its kind program for an educational aviation institution is being replicated globally.

• An annual Aviation Mental Health Summit, to foster collaboration among collegiate aviation

training programs, mental health professionals, industry leaders, and the FAA to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health in aviation.

• The North Dakota Center for Aerospace Medicine at the University of North Dakota, which recently signed a \$5 million aeromedical research agreement with the FAA.

In addition to the advancing the Mental Health in Aviation Act, Senators Duckworth and Hoeven, along with Senators Katie Britt (R-AL) and Dick Durbin (D-IL), also introduced the Aviation Medication Transparency Act, which would ensure pilots and air traffic controllers have access to accessible and user-friendly FAA guidance outlining which medications are approved, along with information on usage requirements. Senators Duckworth and Hoeven look forward to working together to pass both the Mental Health in Aviation Act and the Senators' Aviation Medication Transparency Act.

Extension To Host Livestock Guardian Dogs Webinar

As predator pressure remains a constant challenge for livestock producers, North Dakota State University Extension and University of Minnesota Extension sheep and goat specialists have announced an informative webinar to help protect animals. The webinar, titled "Livestock guardian dogs: Practical insights from the pasture," will take place on April 23 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

"Livestock guard dogs play an important role in the safety and security of ewes and lambs," says Travis Hoffman, NDSU and UMN Extension sheep specialist. "Participants will learn from a leading expert on how to use dogs in their operation."

The webinar will feature guest

speaker Janet McNally, owner of Tamarack Lamb and Wool. McNally brings over four decades of sheep-rearing experience, including twenty years of full-time management in a large predator environment near Hinckley, Minnesota.

McNally has utilized guardian dogs since 1982, and her expertise was put to the test after a pack of twenty-three wolves moved into her neighborhood. She has successfully managed a group of eight to twelve livestock guardian dogs, deterring wolves, bears, bobcats, coyotes and fishers from her flock.

The webinar is free to attend, but registration is required. For more information, visit ndsu.ag/guard-dogs-26.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
NORTH PRAIRIE REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT - WATER CENTS PROGRAM UPDATE
The North Prairie Regional Water District plans to use Water Cents program funds for their intended purpose - scholarships for the Bismarck State College Water & Wastewater Technology course - along with expanded uses including utility operator apprenticeships (workforce recruitment) and improvements to the district's aging infrastructure. These efforts will directly benefit our members.

If you contributed to the Water Cents program and do not want your contribution used for these intended and expanded purposes, the district is offering a 75% refund of your total contributions.

To request a refund, please call the district office between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. The deadline to request a refund is August 15, 2026.
Apr. 22, 2026

Probate No. 31-2026-PR-00026
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MOUNTRAIL COUNTY, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
In the Matter of the Estate of Inga Kadrmass, Deceased.
NOTICE OF HEARING
TO: ALL KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HEIRS OF INGA KADRMASS, DECEASED.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioners, Rebecca Tiano and Sonja Biele, filed a Petition for Formal Probate of Will and Appointment of a Co-Personal Representative with the District Court of Mountrail County, North Dakota.

A hearing upon said Petition will be held on the 14th day of May 2026, at 10:30 a.m., in the courtroom of the Mountrail County District Court before a District Court Judge, at the Mountrail County Courthouse in Stanley, North Dakota. Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Petitioner will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate.
Dated April 1, 2026

PEARCE DURICK PLLC
/s/ Benjamin W. Keup
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314 East Thayer Avenue
P.O. Box 400
Bismarck, ND 58502-0400
(701) 223-2890
bwk@pearce-durick.com
Attorneys for the Applicant
Apr. 8, 15, 22, 2026

Probate No. 31-2026-PR-00033
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MOUNTRAIL COUNTY, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
In the Matter of the Estate of Kenneth L. Schoen, Deceased.
NOTICE OF HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Timothy M. Schoen has filed herein an Application for Formal Probate of Will and Appointment of Personal Representative, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Clerk of Mountrail County District Court, PO Box 69, Stanley, ND 58784.
Hearing has been set upon said Application on 14th day, May, at 10:30 a.m., at the Courtroom of the above-named Court in the city of Stanley, in the County of Mountrail, State of North Dakota.
Dated this 7 day of April, 2026.
FURUSETH OLSON & EVERT, PC
/s/ Jordon J. Evert
Jordon J. Evert (#6969)
PO Box 417
107 Main Street
Williston ND 58802-0417
(701) 774-0005
jordan@furusethlaw.com
Attorney for Personal Representative
Apr. 15, 22, 29, 2026



Probate No. 31-2026-PR-00003
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MOUNTRAIL COUNTY, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
In the Matter of the Estate of Ronald L. Jones, deceased
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned have been appointed personal representatives of the above estate. All persons having claims against Ronald L. Jones are required to present their claims within three (3) months after the date of the first publication or mailing of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Judy M. Jones, Kerri J. Hall, and Patrick L. Jones, personal representatives of the estate and their attorney, Andria L. Mueller, at 7 3rd Street SE, Suite 202, Minot, ND 58701, or filed with the Court.
This document may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which when executed and delivered shall constitute a duplicate original, but all counterparts together shall constitute a single document.
Dated this 31st day of March, 2026.
s/ Judy M. Jones
s/ Kerri J. Hall
s/ Patrick L. Jones
Andria L. Mueller, (ID# 07282)
andria@ldstrategies.com
Legacy Design Strategies
7 3rd Street SE Ste 202
Minot, ND 58701
(701) 838-1998
Attorney for: Personal Representative
Apr. 8, 15, 22, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
Accessibility of SARA Title III Hazardous Substance Information
Section 324 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act, also known as the SARA Title III (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, PL99-499) requires public notice of at least once annually informing the public of means to access information about extremely hazardous substances that are manufactured, stored and used within their community. Follow up emergency notices may subsequently be issued.
Accordingly, information concerning Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting, SARA Title III hazardous materials planning which includes the Mountrail County LEPC Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plans, materials safety data sheets (MSDS), hazardous chemical inventory forms, listing extreme hazardous substances manufactured, stored or used with Mountrail County can be obtained during normal business hours of Mountrail County by contacting the Mountrail County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Services offices at 701-628-2975.
Warren Bogert Jr.
Emergency Management Specialist
Mountrail County Sheriff's Office
Division of Emergency Services
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