



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**AMA Strongly Supports the Third Class Medical Exemption in  
S. 571, the Pilots Bill of Rights 2, for Private Pilots**

**Muncie, Ind.** – *Dave Mathewson, executive director of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), today released the following statement on the third class medical exemption in S. 571, the Pilots Bill of Rights 2, for private pilots.*

“AMA applauds efforts to reform the third class medical certification for private pilots that would do much to support and grow general aviation. Model aviation serves as aviation’s stepping stone, and thousands of our members are private pilots. We’re pleased to join hands with EAA, AOPA and others who are promoting common sense reforms to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and lower costs for pilots and aspiring pilots.

“There’s no conclusive evidence or data that demonstrates the need for the FAA’s current, onerous and intrusive third class medical certification process. Conversely, there is a decade-long track record of allowing sport pilots to self-certify, which shows that a driver’s license medical standard can be safely extended to private pilots.

“A driver’s license medical standard will achieve at least an equivalent level of safety. There’s also the possibility that it will actually improve safety by raising greater awareness of aeromedical factors among the pilot community.

“For nearly 80 years, the model aviation community has inspired and fostered many professional aviators through our longstanding safety and education programs. These reform efforts take a similar approach to ensuring safety through education while allowing the FAA to refocus its limited resources elsewhere.”

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*The Academy of Model Aeronautics, founded in 1936, continues to be devoted to national airspace safety. It serves as the nation’s collective voice for approximately 176,000 modelers in 2,400 clubs in the United States and Puerto Rico. Headquartered in Muncie, Indiana, AMA is a membership organization representing those who fly model aircraft for recreation and educational purposes.*