



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Aviation Safety

Office of Aerospace Medicine
800 Independence Ave
Washington, DC 20591

September 8, 2020

Dear HIMS Program Supporters,

This has been a year of incredible change, mostly not of our own choosing. Enclosed are three policy and guidance updates I want to share with you:

HIMS Step Down Plan

HIMS Step Down Plan Implementation

Guidance for HIMS Airmen on Furlough/Extended Leave from the Airlines

Certainly, we have not covered all the possible scenarios, but hopefully you will find the 90% solution in these documents. We have worked with our staff, psychiatry consultants, AME consultants, and the HIMS Chairs in developing them. As always, if you have further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Finally, for those who have not heard, Dr. Mike Berry will be retiring from the FAA on September 30, 2020. I cannot begin to describe the void his departure will create, but those of us who remain are committed to maintaining our program as the gold standard for the world. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

**PENNY M
GIOVANETTI**

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Penny M. Giovanetti, D.O.
Director, Medical Specialties Division

3 Enclosures