

I oppose the age 60 retirement rule imposed by the FAA since the 1950's. This rule was created under a false flag and has been an unfair and illogical burden on the flying public since its inception. I believe the public interest would be best served by eliminating this capricious and unfair rule.

Ample medical evidence exists that refutes the dubious logic purported to justify this rule. In this modern age of more sophisticated testing, justifying the age 60 retirement rule based upon sudden incapacitation is no longer warranted. Pilots are required to pass a medical exam on a frequent basis. Knowing that their livelihood depends upon, in part, their physical condition, they tend to maintain a healthier lifestyle than the general population.

Frequent performance evaluations are also used to determine fitness for duty. These proficiency checks and line evaluations are a much better way to determine fitness for duty than an arbitrary age limit.

I served this country for twenty years in the military. I find it ironic that the nation which has gone to war to foster the rights of others in foreign lands, and appears to be ready to do so again in the near future, indulges in discrimination against its own population in the form of age bias. Also, in a new era of threats, it seems ironic that this government would continue to deny safety to the flying public by removing the most experienced pilots from their positions based upon a false premise of age.

The economy is a bit tight these days. Why is the government arbitrarily removing tax paying revenue generators from the economy? I think we would be better served by leaving these salary earners in position.

The final insult to those of us adversely impacted by this capricious rule is in the forced early retirement imposed by this rule without the ability to draw an income from Social Security. I have contributed my share for these many years. Why are you denying me my profession and, and at the same time, denying me access to my retirement? This is not right.

Lastly, if pilots who are over 60 years of age, are unsafe why does the FAA allow their pilots, who do not have to retire at 60, to evaluate other airline pilots, both in simulators as well as on flight decks, when there is no requirement for an FAA pilot to comply with the same age 60 limit.

Sincerely,
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