

I am a student pilot, and am pursuing my private pilot's license (then instrument rating) in hopes of being able to participate in the Angel Flight network, offering transportation to hospitals for kids who need medical treatment, and who otherwise would not be able to obtain that care. Currently, I will need 200 hours to be able to volunteer. If I understand the proposed rule, that number could change to 500. I firmly believe in safety, and my instructor is building safety into every lesson, and it is a frequent topic in my ground school sessions. From what I have read and seen, an increase in the number of hours needed will not increase the safety of these or any other pilot. What would increase safety is a definitive move in the FAR's and Training Manuals toward that end, and instructors that consistently pushed safety and were teaching the way my instructor does. He has instilled in me the desire to be safe, and that can't be regulated by some new law. I believe I will be a much safer pilot because of Brad, than I would be with any other CFI, save one (my best friend in Florida who is also a CFI).

Please don't change the number of hours needed for a pilot to be able to volunteer with charities, as it will mean (for me) an additional two to three years before I can take part in something that means so much to me. I am already looking at nearly two years before I will have the 200 hours necessary. Thank you very much for giving me the chance to send these comments.

Sincerely,

Thom Pinkston  
Student Pilot