



George M. Roberts, MEd, LAT, ATC

Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society, Inc.

President

814-434-5418

president@gopats.org

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Honorable Rosemary Brown
210 Ryan Office Building
PO Box 202189
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2189

Dear Representative Brown:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS), representing the 3,000 Licensed Athletic Trainers in the Commonwealth, I would like to again express our support of your intended legislation that would require schools to have an AED present at all interscholastic athletic events and practices, as well as have a sudden cardiac event emergency action plan (EAP) in place.

It is well known that early intervention with defibrillation increases the survival rates of cardiac events. Athletic trainers are required to maintain current CPR/AED certifications in order to maintain our national certification as an athletic trainer. Our education provides training in emergency management as well. Athletic trainers are proficient in the best practices of standards of care which include having updated EAPs for each venue that practices or games would be conducted. These EAPs contain all conceivable emergencies including sudden cardiac arrest. Athletic trainers are the point person at any high school that they are employed in educating, communicating, and maintaining current EAP protocols with all school personnel and emergency medical services at interscholastic events. Our national organization, the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA), has distributed a collaborative statement on EAPs, including sudden cardiac events. I am including this for your reference as well as the journal article developed for best practices to avoid sudden death in secondary athletics programs.

<https://www.nata.org/press-release/032615/collaborative-solutions-safety-sport-call-action-ensure-best-practices-are> and <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3718357/>

PATS would like to lend our support to your legislation but would maintain that best practices include having an athletic trainer at every high school in our Commonwealth (and not simply access) as this would negate the need for legislation of this type. Athletic trainers are already providing these services and in most cases, are promoting or providing CPR/AED certifications for all coaches and staff that would be involved in interscholastic athletics. I would be honored to have a conversation with you in regards to this topic or with any questions or comments you would have about athletic trainers and their role in the secondary school. Please feel free to contact me at president@gopats.org.

Respectfully submitted,

George M. Roberts, MEd, LAT, ATC
PATS President

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