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President

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January 14, 2019

Honorable R. Lee James
145A East Wing
PO Box 202064
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2064

Dear Representative James:

The Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATs) would again like to lend our support of HB 278 that would allow students to have instruction in CPR in secondary schools. PATs is a volunteer organization representing over 3,000 athletic trainers in the Commonwealth. Licensed Athletic Trainers are highly qualified, multi-skilled health care professionals that work under the direction of a physician and are trained to respond to emergent situations.

Pennsylvania is one of a few states that have no legislation regarding CPR instruction in secondary schools. The majority of states have laws that require CPR instruction and define a specific program of study. (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jacc.2017.09.1101>). The American Heart Association has been actively campaigning to pass state laws that will require students to have training before they graduate. The American Red Cross has endorsed CPR education for students. The University of Arizona's Sarver Heart Center has been advocating for CPR instruction since 2003. Empowering our youth with this knowledge could lead to an increase in bystander involvement and increased survival rates of victims within our Commonwealth.

PATs strongly supports the efforts of HB 278 to improve the health and well-being of the citizens in the Commonwealth by helping to reduce the possibility of death from a cardiac event.

Information on PATs or Athletic Trainers can be found at www.gopats.org. If you have any questions about our profession please contact me at president@gopats.org.

Sincerely,

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

The Keystone to a Healthy and Physically Active Life

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