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*President*

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March 6, 2019

Honorable Tim Briggs  
302 Main Capitol Building  
PO Box 202149  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2149

Dear Representative Briggs:

The Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATs) is in full support of your intended legislation that would add a mental health education to current health and wellness educational classes in both primary and secondary schools. As a profession that is increasingly involved in recognition and referral of mental health illness in the secondary school population, we strongly support education that will facilitate early recognition and access to appropriate health care for the youth in our Commonwealth.

Education can help to reduce the negative rhetoric associated with a mental health diagnosis and with seeking professional assistance with any mental health ailment. A mental health curriculum would also provide education to students who have friends or family dealing with a mental health issue and provide understanding of behaviors and treatments involved.

PATs strongly supports the efforts of your intended legislation to improve the health and well-being of our youth in the Commonwealth by providing education on mental health.

Please contact me at [president@gopats.org](mailto:president@gopats.org) with any questions and thank you for your support of our profession.

Sincerely,

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

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