



George M. Roberts, MEd, LAT, ATC
Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society, Inc.
President

814-434-5418
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January 16, 2019

Honorable Dan L. Miller
217 Irvis Office Building
PO Box 202042
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2042

Dear Representative Miller:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATs), representing the 3,000 Licensed Athletic Trainers in the Commonwealth, we want to express our support of your intended legislation that would facilitate early intervention depression screenings for youth within the Commonwealth.

The National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) represents Athletic Trainers across the United States. In 2015, the NATA published recommendations for developing a plan to recognize and refer student-athletes with psychological concerns at the secondary school level (<http://natajournals.org/doi/pdf/10.4085/1062-6050-50.3.03?code=nata-site>) and in 2013 they did the same for the collegiate level (<http://natajournals.org/doi/pdf/10.4085/1062-6050-48.4.13>).

Within these recommendations, the NATA has expressed that pre-participation physical examinations are the optimal time to screen for common mental health conditions by asking specific questions during a comprehensive health history questionnaire. Because of these recommendations, many athletic trainers in the Commonwealth have already begun to screen student-athletes for potential disorders, but this is obviously serving a limited population of our adolescents. The introduction of your legislation would provide the means to screen a large majority of our states adolescents. As with any screening tool, appropriate follow-up care is implied.

PATs strongly supports your efforts to improve the health and well-being of our youth in the Commonwealth by helping to identify those that may need mental health services.

Information on PATs or Athletic Trainers can be found at www.gopats.org. PATs is willing to be of any assistance that you would need. Please contact me at president@gopats.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

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

The Keystone to a Healthy and Physically Active Life

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George M. Roberts, MEd, LAT, ATC
Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society, Inc.
President

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January 16, 2019

Honorable Jason Ortity
143A East Wing
PO Box 202046
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2046

Dear Representative Ortity:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATs), representing the 3,000 Licensed Athletic Trainers in the Commonwealth, we want to express our support of your intended legislation that would facilitate early intervention depression screenings for youth within the Commonwealth.

Athletic Trainers in the United States are represented by the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA). In 2015, the NATA published recommendations for developing a plan to recognize and refer student-athletes with psychological concerns at the secondary school level (<http://natajournals.org/doi/pdf/10.4085/1062-6050-50.3.03?code=nata-site>) and in 2013 they did the same for the collegiate level (<http://natajournals.org/doi/pdf/10.4085/1062-6050-48.4.13>).

Within these recommendations, the NATA has expressed that pre-participation physical examinations are the optimal time to screen for common mental health conditions by asking specific questions during a comprehensive health history questionnaire. Because of these recommendations, many athletic trainers in the Commonwealth have already begun to screen student-athletes for potential disorders, but this is obviously serving a limited population of our adolescents. The re-introduction of HB 2057 would provide the means to screen a large majority of our states adolescents. As with any screening tool, appropriate follow-up care is implied.

PATs strongly supports your efforts to improve the health and well-being of our youth in the Commonwealth by helping to identify those that may need mental health services.

Information on PATs or Athletic Trainers can be found at www.gopats.org. PATs is willing to be of any assistance that you would need. Please contact me at president@gopats.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

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