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President

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February 25, 2019

Honorable Stephen Barrar
18 East Wing
PO Box 202160
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2160

Dear Representative Barrar:

The Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATs) is in full support of your intended legislation that would add Hands-Only CPR instruction 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.

The American Heart Association has been actively campaigning Hands-Only CPR for the past few years. The American Red Cross has also endorsed Hands-Only CPR. The University of Arizona's Sarver Heart Center has been advocating for chest-compression only CPR since 2003. Since then they have published research that has shown this method of CPR doubles a person's chance of survival compared to traditional CPR that includes mouth breathing in a non-hospital setting. They were also able to show that bystander involvement to perform CPR improved by 12% with the use of Hands-Only CPR. 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 your intended legislation 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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