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*President*

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April 17, 2019

Honorable Jason Ortitay  
125B East Wing  
PO Box 202046  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2046

Dear Representative Ortitay:

The Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS) is writing to offer our support of your intended legislation that is looking to provide an avenue to have threat assessment teams established in our public 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.

Athletic trainers work in over 85% of Pennsylvania public schools and are able to recognize potential mental and physical issues with the population that we treat and provide referral as needed. PATS has recognized the need for training in the event of an unforeseeable incident and has been working with the national "Stop the Bleed Campaign" to have athletic trainers participate in "Train the Trainer" classes to be able to instruct members of our communities in lifesaving skills that would help in a catastrophic event.

PATS would like to offer our support of your intended legislation and to provide assistance with the committee when realized. In Pennsylvania this past fall, multiple school athletic events were postponed or cancelled due to threats of violence. Athletic trainers are often the only medical professionals available during interscholastic athletic activities.

It would be my pleasure to set up a meeting to provide more information on PATS or Licensed Athletic Trainers. Please feel free to contact me at [president@gopats.org](mailto:president@gopats.org).

Sincerely,

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

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