



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

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January 16, 2019

Honorable Ed Neilson
107 East Wing
PO Box 202174
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2174

Dear Representative Neilson:

The Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATs) would like to express our support of your intended legislation that would require AEDs in schools and require individuals to be trained in their use.

Athletic Trainers are licensed healthcare professionals that promote the health and welfare of our clients in the Commonwealth through the prevention, diagnosis, and intervention of emergency, acute and chronic medical conditions.

To maintain our national certification, Athletic Trainers must maintain AED, CPR, and First Aid certification. Schools that have an athletic trainer would satisfy your requirement for interscholastic sporting events to have an AED and qualified person trained in AED and CPR present. Most athletic trainers have a portable AED that is used to travel between event locations, which is in supplement to the established locations of AEDs for public use. The American Red Cross states that having training in CPR and the proper use of an AED can give a person the "knowledge and confidence to respond during an emergency situation with the skills that can help save a life". Increasing the number of individuals with this knowledge in our schools can only benefit our Commonwealth as a whole.

PATs strongly supports your efforts 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. 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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