



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

814-434-5418  
president@gopats.org

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January 16, 2019

Senator Mike Regan  
Senate Box 203031  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3031

Dear Senator Regan:

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 SB 199 that would facilitate 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 SB 199 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](http://www.gopats.org). PATs is willing to be of any assistance that you would need. Please contact me at [president@gopats.org](mailto:president@gopats.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

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

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*The Keystone to a Healthy and Physically Active Life*

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January 16, 2019

Senator Judy Ward  
Senate Box 203030  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3030

Dear Senator Ward:

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 SB 199 that would facilitate 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>).

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