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March 5, 2018

Senator Judith Schwank
Senate Box 203011
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3011
Room: 457 Main Capitol

Dear Senator Schwank:

The Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS) is writing this letter in support of your intended resolution to designate March 2018 as "Brain Injury Awareness Month" in the Commonwealth.

Athletic Trainers are licensed healthcare professionals in the Commonwealth and our goal is to enhance the health and welfare of our patients by providing prevention, diagnosis and intervention of emergency, acute, and chronic medical conditions. Traumatic brain injuries are a common acute medical ailment afflicting our patients. Although the majority of the TBI that are diagnosed are considered mild traumatic brain injuries (mTBI), we are knowledgeable in responding, diagnosing and referring all TBI. It is devastating when a patient is unable to recover, or the progress is delayed, from a TBI or mTBI. During this time, Athletic Trainers are able to provide the patient and their families support and resources.

Our Society has been working closely with the Department of Health (DOH), the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board, and the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, Inc. since 2011 on education initiatives for families, students, physicians, physician assistants and school nurses. As a society, we appreciate your efforts in recognizing TBI and the efforts to help those affected.

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

Sincerely,

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