



Gaetano Sanchioli, MS, LAT, ATC, PES
Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society, Inc.
President

610-496-4192
president@gopats.org

April 11, 2017

Honorable Thomas P. Murt
410 Irvis Office Building
PO Box 20152
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2152

Dear Rep. Murt:

I am writing to you in regards to your proposed legislation that would amend Act 59 of 2012 and require Electrocardiogram (EKG) testing for high school sports. The Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS) applauds the proactive nature of this proposed legislation, but at this time, the available academic research does not support universal EKG screening for high school athletes. The past-president of PATS is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC), and the subject has been discussed at length with the sports medicine physicians and health care providers on the SMAC. The consensus of the SMAC is that mandatory and universal mass screening with 12-lead EKGs in large general populations of young healthy people 12 to 25 years of age to identify genetic/congenital and other cardiovascular abnormalities is not recommended for athletes and non-athletes alike. Limitations of the 12-lead EKG as a population-screening test include the expected frequency of false-positive and false-negative test results.

Similar legislation was proposed in late 2015 and because of that, PATS reached out to physicians at the Rothman Institute and the Hershey Medical Center for their input. The consensus among the sports medicine physicians at these institutions was that EKG screenings for athletes is not supported by available research but research does support having an availability to an AED at all secondary school and youth sports activities as well as having access to Athletic Training services at those events. This is supported by the National Youth Sports Safety Alliance, which released Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention of Death in Secondary School Athletes in 2013. These recommendations also advise for AEDs and Athletic Training services vs. EKG screenings as the best practice for prevention of sudden cardiac episodes. Further information can be found at <http://nssafame.com/2013/02/06/youth-sports-safteyalliance-releases-first-ever-national-action-plan-for-sports-safety/>.

Please contact me with any questions or comments at president@gopats.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Gaetano Sanchioli, MS, LAT, ATC, PES
PATS President

The Keystone to a Healthy and Physically Active Life

gopats.org | twitter.com/gopatsAT | facebook.com/gopatsAT