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Honorable Thomas P. Murt
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Representative Murt:

The Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS) is writing this letter in support of your House Resolution to designate March 2016 as Brain Injury Awareness Month. We would also like to thank you and for introducing this resolution.

Athletic Trainers are healthcare professionals trained in concussion management (mild traumatic brain injury) and work in varying work settings. A primary professional setting of Athletic Trainers in PA is in the secondary school and our goal is to enhance student-athlete health and welfare by providing prevention, diagnosis and intervention of emergency, acute and chronic medical conditions, including concussions.

Our Society has been working closely with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Governor's Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board since 2011. A member of our Society is an active member of that Board. PATS previously partnered with Sports Safety International (SSI) to develop a DOH approved ConcussionWise™ training course that met the requirements of the Safety in Youth Sports Act for Coaches, Parents and Student-Athletes. Last year, the DOH was awarded a federal grant and asked PATS to partner with them to enhance concussion education. The federal grant has allowed for educational sessions held in different regions of PA of the ConcussionWise™ training. PATS also partnered with SSI again, as well as the PA Medical Society, to develop a ConcussionWise™ training course for physicians in PA. This program has allowed physicians to strengthen their knowledge and to be recognized on a national database kept by SSI as a trained provider of concussion management.

PATS strongly supports your resolution to recognize Brain Injuries within the Commonwealth. PATS is available as a resource for you. If you have any questions about our profession please contact me at president@gopats.org.

Respectfully submitted,

John Moyer, LAT, ATC
PATS President

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