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Honorable Scott Conklin
314 Irvis Office Building
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Representative Conklin:

The Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS) is writing this letter in support your intended legislation to amend the Public School Code of 1949 to require schools to provide employees, volunteers and students instruction in CPR, First Aid, and AED.

Athletic Trainers are health professionals and work in multiple employment settings to provide quality health care. A primary professional setting of Athletic Trainers in PA is the secondary school. Our goal is to enhance student-athlete health and welfare by providing prevention, diagnosis and intervention of emergency, acute and chronic medical conditions. Athletic trainers are required to maintain current CPR and AED certification in order to maintain our National Certification and State License in Athletic Training. Athletic Trainers are often the only employee certified in CPR and AED during after school activities.

The Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation reports that victims of sudden cardiac arrest can survive with the use of immediate CPR and early defibrillation, ideally within three to five minutes after collapse. Having the number of staff in schools required to be certified in the use of AEDs increased from one to four people can only help to benefit the school employees, volunteers, visitors and students. CPR and first aid becoming a requirement of graduation would empower and enable these students to understand the steps to take if they are confronted with a medical emergency, whether during school, during after school activities, or at home.

PATS strongly supports your intended legislation. Information on PATS or Athletic Trainers can be found at www.gopats.org. PATS is available as a resource and would appreciate any questions you may have and can be contacted at president@gopats.org.

Respectfully submitted,

John Moyer, LAT, ATC
PATS President

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