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President

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Representative Brown,

The Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATs) wholly supports your resolution to designate the week of February 21-27, 2016 as "AED Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

PATs represents over 3000 Licensed Athletic Trainers in the Commonwealth. Athletic Trainers work in many settings including secondary schools, collegiate and professional athletics, as physician extenders, in rehabilitation and occupational clinics and in hospitals. Athletic Trainers protect and enhance the health and welfare of our clients through the prevention, diagnosis, and intervention of emergency, acute and chronic medical conditions.

Public safety, injury and illness prevention, and early intervention are keystones to the practice of athletic training. Athletic Trainers across the Commonwealth have been involved in saving the lives of numerous individuals with the use of AEDs and early activation of emergency medical services. Early intervention with an AED in the event of a sudden cardiac issue increases the chance of survival. 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. Athletic Trainers are uniquely located in the traditional setting of interscholastic, collegiate and professional athletics, as well as other settings, to be able to provide early recognition of a sudden cardiac event, to activate the local emergency response system and to provide early resuscitation and defibrillation. Unfortunately, out of these three traditional settings, the interscholastic setting has the lowest percentage of access to a Licensed Athletic Trainer during athletic activities in the Commonwealth. Increasing access to a Licensed Athletic Trainer, especially in our high schools, allows for a medical professional to be on hand when an emergent situation arises.

Information on PATs or Athletic Trainers can be found at www.gopats.org. PATs is available as a resource and would appreciate any questions that you may have. Please contact PATs at president@gopats.org.

Sincerely,

John Moyer, LAT, ATC
PATs President

The Keystone to a Healthy and Physically Active Life

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