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President

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Honorable Dan L. Miller
116A East Wing
PO Box 202042
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2042

Dear Representative Miller:

The Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS), would like to express our support of the re-introduction of HB 2057 from the 2015-2016 session. Mental health in adolescents is becoming an ever increasing concern in the Commonwealth and around our nation and needs to be addressed.

Athletic Trainers in the United States are represented by the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA). In 2015, the NATA published recommendations for developing a plan to recognize and refer student-athletes with psychological concerns at the secondary school level (<http://natajournals.org/doi/pdf/10.4085/1062-6050-50.3.03?code=nata-site>) and in 2013 they did the same for the collegiate level (<http://natajournals.org/doi/pdf/10.4085/1062-6050-48.4.13>).

Within these recommendations, the NATA has expressed that pre-participation physical examinations are the optimal time to screen for common mental health conditions by asking specific questions during a comprehensive health history questionnaire. Because of these recommendations, many athletic trainers in the Commonwealth have already begun to screen student-athletes for potential disorders, but this is obviously serving a limited population of our adolescents. The re-introduction of HB 2057 would provide the means to screen a large majority of our states adolescents. As with any screening tool, appropriate follow-up care is implied.

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

Sincerely,

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

The Keystone to a Healthy and Physically Active Life

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