



John L. Moyer Jr., LAT, ATC
Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society, Inc.
President

610-496-4192
president@gopats.org

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Honorable Mike Vereb
400 Irvis Office Building
PO Box 202150
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2150

Representative Vereb,

The Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS) would like to lend our support to HR 842 and its call for education and condemnation of performance-enhancing drug (PED) use.

Athletic Trainers in the Commonwealth are currently employed in 87% of our public secondary schools and close to 100% of colleges and universities. Education for administrators, coaches, student-athletes and parents is one of the many abilities and advantages for employing athletic trainers in these settings. The number of student-athletes unaware of the risks, not only of knowingly, but unknowingly consuming PEDs is unacceptable. Over-the-counter (OTC) supplement contamination and non-regulation, consumption of energy-type commodities, ease of access to prescription medications, as well as the use of illegal PEDs, are a growing concern that athletic trainers are continually trying to address in our schools and communities.

Prevention has been a hallmark of our health profession and we feel that preventative education is key to reducing potential PED use. We want to thank you for recognizing this subject in your resolution and hope that the continued effort to educate the public in many arenas will begin to eliminate the harm that can occur with the use of PEDs.

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. Please contact PATS at president@gopats.org.

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