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President

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January 14, 2019

Honorable Harry Readshaw
221 Irvis Office Building
PO Box 202036
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2036

Dear Representative Readshaw:

The Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS) is writing this letter in support of HB 32 that would provide funding to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to assist current service members and veterans with traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and post-traumatic stress (PTS).

As you are aware, Athletic Trainers are licensed healthcare professionals in the Commonwealth and our goal is to enhance the health and welfare of our patients by providing prevention, diagnosis and intervention of emergency, acute, and chronic medical conditions. Those patients can be veterans that have returned to physical activity, either recreationally or through an organized entity, and have access to an athletic trainer. PATS supports and encourages your attempt to provide necessary medical care to our members and veterans of the armed services.

Our Society has been working closely with the Department of Health (DOH), the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board, and the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, Inc. since 2011 on education initiatives for families, students, physicians, physician assistants and school nurses on the topic of brain injuries. We have also been increasingly supportive and aware of the need for increased access to mental health care. As a society, we appreciate your efforts in recognizing TBI and PTS and the efforts to help those affected.

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

Sincerely,

George M. Roberts, MEd, LAT, ATC
PATS President

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