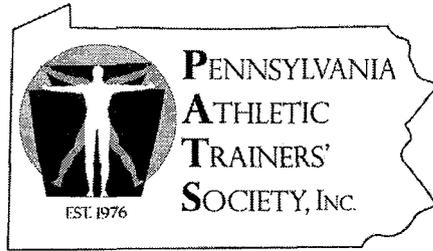


**COPY**  
Written Testimony



Thomas F. West, PhD, ATC  
**President, Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers'  
Society**

Pennsylvania House of Representatives Bill 1803

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS) to address the issue of **Automated External Defibrillators** in the public school system. PATS is a professional society representing the over 2000 athletic trainers in Pennsylvania.

Athletic trainers are health care professionals who practice under the direction of a physician to optimize activity and participation of patients and clients. Athletic training encompasses the prevention, diagnosis, and intervention of emergency, acute, and chronic medical conditions involving impairment, functional limitations, and disabilities.

Athletic trainers all receive substantial training in emergency care and must maintain certification in CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) use. According to PATS research, athletic trainers are contracted to provide care to over 70% of the school districts in Pennsylvania. Athletic trainers also frequently are on school property after normal school hours, at which time they would be the only medical professional available to provide care to students. These facts make the athletic trainer well positioned to provide emergency care on site when such a situation arises.

PATS commends the authors of HB 1803 in that it will help to make students, employees and visitors to our schools safer. We all hope that AED training is a skill we never have to utilize. The use of an AED is simple and does not require a medical professional such as a school nurse or athletic trainer to administer. Therefore House Bill 1803 does a good job of certifying multiple individuals in the use of an AED. Minutes count in these types of situations, so the quicker the AED can be found and administered the greater the chance for positive outcomes.

PATS does have one concern with HB 1803 but we believe it is easily rectified. On page 2, starting on line 25 it states "each student who serves as an athletic trainer". Athletic trainers are credentialed health care professionals holding certification from the PA State Board of Medicine/Osteopathic Medicine. To be certified one must possess a minimum of a Bachelor's degree. If a high school student "served as an athletic trainer" they would be in violation of state law and the Medical and Osteopathic Medical practice acts and be open for legal action and/or a fine. PATS recommends that the language be changed to "each student who serves as an Athletic Training Student Aide." This is the language recommended by our national organization, the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

In conclusion, I would like to offer the services of the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society as a source of information in the evolution of HB 1803 and its eventual implementation. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas F. West". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Thomas F. West, PhD, ATC  
President, Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society  
thomas.west@calu.edu

#### Sources

*Official Statement of Proper Supervision of High School Athletic Training Student Aides.* National Athletic Trainers' Association.  
<http://www.nata.org/statements/official/SS%20student%20aides%20approved.pdf>. 2010.