



January 9, 2015

Jim Thornton, MS, ATC, CES  
President  
National Athletic Trainers' Association  
1620 Valwood Pkwy, Suite 115  
Carrollton, Texas, 75006

Dear Jim,

Athletes in Action (AIA) is pleased to support the call to action of the Youth Sports Safety Alliance. As a leader in sports ministry, we are committed to promoting the health and safety of all those who participate in athletics, as we pursue our priorities of helping individuals grow in body, soul and spirit. While participation in sports is never without risk, the goals of the Alliance will serve to lower that risk here in the United States. Our international experience has taught us that the needs addressed by the Alliance are global. Access to qualified health care professionals and education for parents, athletes, coaches and others about sports injuries and conditions are essential keys to the success of any athletic minded culture. The society that fails to care for its future will not succeed.

Education is a major emphasis of Athletes in Action. Through AIA Sports Performance we have sent thirty-five educational teams, conducting hundreds of clinics while impacting 29 countries since 1997. We have been blessed to partner with leading universities, national sports federations and Olympic committees in an effort to share knowledge and skills. In every country there is agreement that more general and sport specific research and education is needed. Over 300 physicians, athletic trainers and strength coaches have travelled with our international competitive teams. In many cases they have been given the opportunity to conduct a clinic, educating others while caring for the needs of the athletes they encounter. We are educating coaches from several countries every year through our International Coaches Academies in Basketball, American Football and Strength & Conditioning.

Through our Sports Complex and Retreat Center in Xenia, Ohio that hosts over 80,000 athletes, coaches, families and fans annually, we are committed to creating a safe environment for sports and a place where others can be educated about the needs addressed by the Alliance. We support the NATA's initiative to create a safer environment for youth participating in sports around the world. We look forward to joining other Alliance members in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Newman".

Paul Newman, MS, ATC  
Director, AIA Sports Performance