May 1, 2013

Ellen Satlof
National Athletic Trainers' Association
2952 Stemmons Freeway
Dallas, TX 75247

Dear Ms. Satlof:

The Eric Paredes Save A Life Foundation has provided thousands of free screenings to detect the heart anomalies that unknowingly put kids at risk. Established to honor our son, Eric, a Steele Canyon High School athlete who lost his life at 15 to SCA in 2009, the foundation strives to educate parents, educators, physicians and elected officials on the prevalence of SCA among teens and the importance of standardizing electrocardiograms (EKG) as part of their annual well-child and sports-related physical exams.

SCA is an abnormality in the heart's electrical system that may be detected with a simple EKG, but these screenings are not a part of our kids' regular checkups, though they only cost about $100. Our own son's three-hour resuscitation effort cost the insurance company over $15,000. How many children must die for us to give merit to the importance of simple heart screenings?

Saving lives is paramount our mission. For every 1,000 kids we screen, 20 will be at risk for SCA. Dozens of teens found at risk have had to be followed by a cardiologist and several have undergone procedures that range from cardiac ablations to open heart surgery. These are the lucky ones compared to the 7,000 who die annually from an undetected heart condition.

The Eric Paredes Save A Life Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization committed to preventing Sudden Cardiac Arrest/Death (SCA/D) in young people through awareness, education, and action. Our ultimate goal is to standardize cardiac screenings among our youth and equip our schools with readily accessible automated external defibrillators (AED) with CPR/AED training for students and staff.

We want to prevent tragedy that could be just a heartbeat away. The Youth Sports Safety Alliance shares the same goal to keep our youth safe. We are honored to be counted as a member of their organization.

Sincerely,

Rhina Paredes (Eric's Mom)
Co-Founder