Dear Mr. Kellermann:

I am writing to you to propose a formal report to address the problem of the title Certified Athletic Trainer. This report will be targeted at the National Athletic Trainer’s Association and its members because this issue affects their livelihood and they have the power to make a change. Following, you will find a definition of the problem, a research plan and schedule, and my qualifications to write this report.

The Problem

The National Athletic Trainer’s Association was founded in 1950 to advance the profession. At that time an athletic trainer’s main responsibility was to provide physical conditioning for athletes. However, the profession has changed tremendously throughout the years. Currently, a certified athletic trainer is responsible for the prevention, recognition and assessment, treatment, rehabilitation, referral, and documentation of athletic injuries and illness. We are recognized by the American Medical Association as an allied health profession and are no longer involved with what one would call “athletic
training”. Additionally, there is a newer organization, the National Strength and Conditioning Association, which certifies Strength and Conditioning Specialists. The title, Athletic Trainer, is certainly more appropriate for these professionals.

Ideally, our title would reflect the profession more appropriately. If this were the case, we would command more respect and further our advancement. Since it does not, it is often confused by many that we train athletes, which is a logical assumption. Consequently, this creates many other problems for us. Mainly, it hinders the advancement of the profession as a whole. We are a highly skilled paramedical profession with many responsibilities but are perceived as less because of our title. In the academic world anything involved with physical education or athletics carries a negative or unintelligent connotation. We are being held back because of this.

If our title remains unchanged it will have a negative impact on the profession and continue to hinder its advancement. Salaries will remain low, hours will remain long, positions will be limited, and research grants will be scarce.

**Research Plan**

In order to complete this report certain aspects of the problem must be researched. I must develop a sense of how the problem came to be and whether we should adapt to it or decide to make a change. Moreover, possible solutions must be evaluated. This entails researching what to change our title to and the potential impact of each possibility.
I will begin my research by examining past literature on the history of athletic training and the current problem. Additionally, I will survey student athletic trainers as well as both clinical and faculty Certified Athletic Trainers about the subject. Finally, I will conduct interviews with both clinical and faculty athletic trainers about this matter.

**Schedule**

| Oct. 1 – Oct. 8   | Research past history of athletic training and review literature on the current problem |
| Oct. 9 – Oct. 15  | Develop survey |
| Oct. 16 – Oct. 22 | Distribute survey |
| Oct. 23 – Oct. 29 | Collect surveys and examine data |
| Oct. 30 – Nov. 2  | Compose and submit progress report |
| Nov. 6 – Nov. 19  | Conduct interviews |
| Nov. 20 – Dec. 7  | Compose and submit formal report |

**Qualifications**

I am currently a senior student athletic trainer at the Pennsylvania State University, which competes in many NCAA Division I sports. My academic and clinical experiences have given me a broad knowledge base as well as training in research. Furthermore, I have
taken the class Issues in Athletic Training, which focuses on problems within the profession, and how to research and produce possible solutions. Finally, and most important, is that Penn State has a large network throughout the profession. This will enable me to contact and gain insight from not only athletic training professors and clinicians from Penn State, but also from other prestigious institutions throughout the country.

In conclusion, the title, Athletic Trainer, is not suitable or satisfactory for our profession. This title, that once portrayed an accurate representation of our profession is no longer adequate. Our major roles and responsibilities have changed over time and it is only logical that our title should follow. Our current title has hindered us in the past and will continue to do so unless we take action! Now that I have provided a brief background of the problem, a research plan, and my qualifications, I request your permission to proceed with the formal report.

Sincerely,

John P. ****