



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30333

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Patrick J. McConnon, M.P.H.  
Executive Director  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
2872 Woodcock Boulevard, Suite 303  
Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4015

Dear Mr. McConnon:

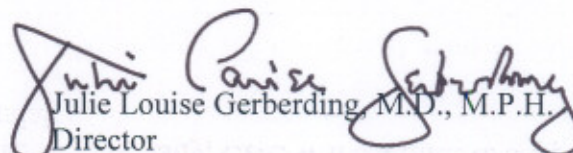
Thank you for your letter regarding the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists' (CSTE) position statement 06-EC-01, "Workforce Capacity: Investing in the Next Generation of Applied Epidemiology Leaders." We at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) agree that developing the next generation of leaders is of utmost concern. Thank you, too, for your support of the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) program, the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology fellowship program, and the CDC/APHL Emerging Infectious Disease Fellowship program, all of which fill key niches in the arena of workforce development.

I am committed to ensuring that the EIS program receives the support it needs to continue to meet evolving public health practice needs. Additionally, CDC will continue to support the idea that investing in health protection is essential.

To meet the public health challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the public health workforce, at all levels and in sufficient numbers, must have the skills and competencies necessary to work effectively in a rapidly changing and complex environment. Toward that end, training programs must engage in an ongoing process of skill- and infrastructure-building; prepare the workforce to perform essential public health services; and adjust to changes in mission, technology, and the content of the work itself.

CDC appreciates the opportunity to respond to this important position statement.

Sincerely,

  
Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director