



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

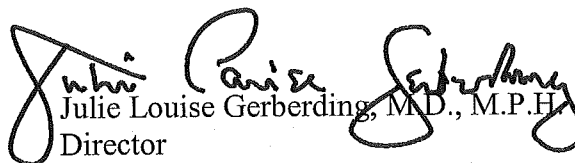
Dear Mr. McConnon:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists' (CSTE) position statement 07-CD-01 on "State-level Chronic Disease Epidemiology Capacity." The newly adopted position statement codifies your organization's strong support of chronic disease epidemiology, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) applauds your efforts.

CDC has a long history of supporting chronic disease epidemiology capacity through its State-Based Epidemiology for Public Health Program Support (STEPPS) Activity. Since its inception in 1991, STEPPS has provided staff or salary support to 33 states or jurisdictions. Of the 24 states and jurisdictions no longer receiving support from CDC, at least two-thirds have made the successful transition to having one or more state-supported positions for chronic disease epidemiology that function independently of financial support from STEPPS. This successful program demonstrates the strong relationship between the states and CDC and the positive impact of these partnerships.

The new CSTE position statement reinforces our past work and points to a constructive direction for the future. CDC is already working on many of the strategies outlined in the statement, which includes allowing greater flexibility across chronic diseases in future cooperative agreements and, of course, supporting chronic disease epidemiologist positions at the state level. Building this capacity at the state level will help states and the nation to prevent and combat chronic disease more effectively. We look forward to continuing this valuable work with your organization.

Sincerely,


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