



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30341-3724

NOV 13 2001

Matthew Cartter, M.D., M.P.H.
President
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
2872 Woodcock Boulevard, Suite 303
Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4015

Dear Dr. Cartter:

Thank you for sharing with us the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist's (CSTE) position statement entitled "*Support for the Development of the National Action Agenda for Building Data Capacity for Maternal and Child Health.*" As you may know, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is one of the four core partner organizations that initiated the National Action Agenda three years ago, working closely with the Health Resources and Services Administration, CityMatCH and the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs. From the moment the agenda was launched, we have actively sought closer working relationships with other national organizations including CSTE. In pursuit of this closer collaboration, CDC and CSTE have jointly developed and implemented the Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Fellowship/Capacity Building Program.

We are delighted that CSTE has resolved to promote and support broader national efforts under the National Action Agenda. We welcome your invitation for closer collaboration between CDC and CSTE and support your agency's position statement which calls for CSTE to be an active organizational partner in the planning and implementation of the National Action Agenda. I look forward to this opportunity for working together to promote the health of all mothers and infants in the United States. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Lynne Wilcox at (770) 488-5191, email lwilcox@cdc.gov.

Sincerely,

James S. Marks, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Surgeon General
Director
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention
and Health Promotion

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