

HOD Action: Resolution 301 adopted

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 301
(A-08)

Introduced by: American College of Preventive Medicine

Subject: Support for the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Program and Preventive Medicine Residency Expansion

Referred to: Reference Committee C
(David M. Lichtman, MD, Chair)

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- 1 Whereas, Preventive Medicine Residencies train physicians specifically for public health careers
2 and the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) is a unique post-graduate training program
3 providing service and on-the-job learning for health professionals interested in the practice of
4 epidemiology; and
5
6 Whereas, EIS Officers are frequently called upon to take key leadership roles on Centers for
7 Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) response teams providing technical assistance to our
8 state, local, or international partners; and
9
10 Whereas, Since 1951, nearly 3,000 EIS Officers, often referred to as “the nation’s disease
11 detectives,” have responded to requests for epidemiologic assistance within the United States
12 and throughout the world¹; and
13
14 Whereas, EIS Officers have provided the immediate surge capacity to mount an effective
15 response to large scale emergencies such as Hurricane Katrina, and during the months
16 immediately following September 11, 2001, and the anthrax attacks²; and
17
18 Whereas, EIS alumni provide the majority of the epidemiologic expertise and leadership at CDC
19 and, along with preventive medicine physicians, play key leadership roles in the rest of the
20 health system; and
21
22 Whereas, EIS Officers and alumni and preventive medicine physicians have contributed
23 substantially to advancement of medical and public health science; and
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25 Whereas, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) recently identified a shortage of trained public health
26 physicians and recommended doubling the number of physicians trained through the EIS
27 program³; and
28
29 Whereas, The IOM also recommended the expansion of preventive medicine residency
30 programs to graduate a minimum additional 400 residents per year; and
31
32 Whereas, Despite its importance to the mission of CDC and public health there is currently no
33 line appropriation for the EIS program and fiscal support for the program has become uncertain
34 as the CDC supports the program from other multiple funding sources which vary each year
35 without guarantee of funding from one year to the next; and

1 Whereas, Expenses for the EIS program currently amount to about \$20 million total per year
2 with at least 80 percent of the costs relating directly to fellows in training⁴; and
3
4 Whereas, With level or decreased funding for the EIS program the cost of living expenses alone
5 will lead to a loss of approximately 10 officers per year⁵; therefore be it
6
7 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association work to support increased federal funding
8 for training of public health physicians through the Epidemic Intelligence Service program and
9 work to support increased federal funding for preventive medicine residency training programs.
10 (Directive to Take Action)

Received: 05/07/08

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

H-440.982 Centers for Disease Control Funding

The AMA supports funding for the Centers for Disease Control that is adequate to support its important and expanding public health activities. (BOT Rep. Q, I-83; Reaffirmed: CLRPD Rep. 1, I-93; Reaffirmed: CSA Rep. 8, A-05)

D-305.974 Funding for Preventive Medicine Residencies

Our AMA will work with the American College of Preventive Medicine, other preventive medicine specialty societies, and other allied partners, to formally support legislative efforts to fund preventive medicine training programs. (Res. 324, A-05)

¹ Koo D, Thacker SB. The Education of Physicians: a CDC Perspective. Acad Med 2008; 83:399-407.

² Virtual Mentor (AMA). April 2006, Volume 8, Number 4: 261-264. <http://virtualmentor.ama-assn.org/2006/04/mhst2-0604.html>

³ Committee on Training Physicians for Public Health Careers, Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice; Hernandez LM, Munthali AW, eds. Training Physicians for Public Health Careers. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press; 2007.

⁴ CDC 2007. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Fiscal year 2007 A-Z fact sheet: Epidemic Intelligence Service. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

⁵ Office of Workforce and Career Development, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.