

PROTECT CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

March 3, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
S-221 US Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Republican Leader
S-231 US Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
S-128 US Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
S-146A US Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Republican Leader McConnell, Chairman Inouye, Ranking Member Cochran, Chairman Harkin, and Ranking Member Shelby:

We thank the Senate for its long-standing bipartisan support of the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program. We also appreciate the difficult budgetary climate and the pressure to reduce discretionary spending. However, we believe that the proposal to eliminate the CHGME program that is included in the President's FY 2012 budget would be detrimental to our nation's goals of strengthening the primary care workforce and ensuring timely access to necessary, high quality specialty care. We urge the Senate to continue to maintain this important federal program that directly supports the training of pediatricians and pediatric specialists at free-standing children's hospitals and provide continued stable funding for CHGME in the FY 2011 appropriations bills.

CHGME provides critically important federal GME support for freestanding children's hospitals, similar to the support that other teaching hospitals receive through Medicare GME. It has been a major success, enabling children's hospitals to sustain and grow their teaching programs in response to local and national needs without sacrificing clinical care.

The program provides essential support for the future primary care workforce for our nation's children and for pediatric specialty care, which is the greatest workforce shortage in children's health care. CHGME hospitals train 40 percent of all

pediatricians, almost 60 percent of whom are in general pediatrics. The program also supports the training of 43 percent of the nation's pediatric specialists and the majority of pediatric researchers.

CHGME is a relatively small program, receiving \$317.5 million in FY 2010, but it is one of our most important investments in strengthening children's health care in America. Again, we understand that these are tough budgetary times, but what our nation cannot afford is to further jeopardize children's access to physicians trained to meet their unique needs.

We respectfully request that the Senate continue its history of bipartisan support for the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education program and include stable funding in the FY 2011 appropriations bills for this vital program.

Sincerely,

American Hospital Association

American Academy of Pediatrics

Association of American Medical Colleges

Academic Pediatric Association

Federation of American Hospitals

American Pediatric Society

Catholic Health Association
of the United States

Association of Medical School
Pediatric Department Chairs

National Association
of Children's Hospitals

Council of Pediatric Subspecialties

National Association of Public Hospitals
and Health Systems

Federation of Pediatric Organizations

Society for Pediatric Research