

December 20, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Enzi
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Reid, Leader McConnell, Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Enzi:

On behalf of the following organizations, we call on you to ensure access to health care for America's children by completing work and passing into law legislation to reauthorize the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program.

CHGME is a highly effective program, increasing the number of pediatric providers and easing critical shortages in pediatric specialty care. The CHGME hospitals, less than one percent of all hospitals, train 49% of all pediatricians and 51% of pediatric specialists.

The CHGME program is an investment in the health care of every child in this country, and an investment in the future of the nation. In these challenging times, passage of CHGME reauthorization legislation before the end of the year will signal Congress's continued bipartisan, bicameral support of this critically important program.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our nation's children.

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Hospital Association
Association of American Medical Colleges
Children's Hospital Association