



**American Hospital
Association**

Liberty Place, Suite 700
325 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004-2802
(202) 638-1100 Phone
www.aha.org

January 31, 2013

The Honorable Joe Pitts
Chairman, Subcommittee on Health
Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
420 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pitts:

On behalf of our more than 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our 42,000 individual members, the American Hospital Association (AHA) wishes to express support for the *Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013* (H.R. 297), which would reauthorize the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program at its current funding level for fiscal years (FY) 2013 through 2017.

Congress created the CHGME program in 1999 to support graduate medical education programs at children's hospitals that train resident physicians, enhance research capabilities and care for poor and medically underserved children in rural and inner-city areas. The program provides funding to independent children's hospitals in more than 30 states to train primary care pediatricians. Children's hospitals treat very few Medicare patients; therefore, they do not receive Medicare funding to support medical training of residents. The CHGME program addresses this inequity. The program helps independent children's hospitals train more than 40 percent of general pediatricians, 43 percent of all pediatric specialists and the majority of pediatric researchers.

In the face of a nationwide physician shortage and increased demand for health care services, the need for pediatricians is greater than ever. The AHA was disappointed that President Obama's FY 2013 budget proposed to reduce CHGME funding. Not fully supporting the program would be detrimental to the mutual goals of strengthening the primary care workforce and ensuring timely access to critical, high-quality specialty care.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President

