

American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



November 11, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As organizations committed to the health of our nation's children, we urge that the FY 2017 budget for the Department of Health and Human Services include \$300 million in funding for the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program.

The CHGME program supports child health nationally by funding the training of pediatric providers who go on to care for children living in every state. Thank you for signing bipartisan legislation in 2014 reauthorizing CHGME through FY 2018. We urge that in the final budget of your term in office, you take the opportunity to protect children's health and lay down a marker for future administrations by fully funding CHGME at its authorized level of \$300 million.

The 56 freestanding children's hospitals that receive CHGME funding train approximately half of all future pediatricians and the majority of all residents in pediatric subspecialties. CHGME has allowed children's hospitals to develop and maintain training programs in highly specialized disciplines that target the unique needs of children. Unfortunately, funding to train doctors to serve children has not kept pace with need. CHGME funding has decreased 17 percent since FY 2010, from \$317.5 million to \$265 million in FY 2015.

The effects of continued diminished support for pediatric training are felt by children and their families. Serious pediatric workforce shortages persist, most acutely among pediatric subspecialties. Localized shortages of pediatric primary care also continue, particularly in certain rural areas. There are also several pediatric specialties at risk of sustaining tremendous losses as the current workforce retires and not enough new specialists are trained. Additionally, cuts have slowed the ability to grow in areas of need, which will result in fewer pediatric subspecialists across the country.

Now is the time to take a step forward in pediatric medicine. We urge you to protect children's health and fully fund CHGME at its authorized level of \$300 million. Thank for your continued support of our nation's children and families.

Sincerely,

Sandra G. Hassink, MD, FAAP
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Richard J. Pollack
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