

Protect Children's Health: Fund Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME)

April 8, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

The Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program is a vital investment in strengthening the pediatric workforce and access to care for children. **As groups dedicated to protecting and advancing the health of America's children, we thank you for your longstanding bipartisan support of CHGME and ask you to provide \$400 million in FY 2020 funding for the program.**

Since Congress created the CHGME program in 1999 children's hospitals have been able to grow their training programs significantly, increasing the number of pediatric providers and addressing critical shortages in pediatric subspecialty care. Today, half of all pediatric residents are trained at CHGME recipient hospitals.

Sustaining pediatric training programs at children's hospitals to meet the need of children, now and in the future, requires bolstering our national commitment. Support for training pediatric providers through CHGME lags behind the per-trainee levels provided through other federal programs. We cannot risk falling behind in advancing children's health. Ongoing workforce shortages need to be addressed, most acutely among pediatric specialties such as developmental pediatrics, child and adolescent psychiatry, and pediatric genetics and genomics, and CHGME is mission to meeting this need.

We recognize that Congress has a responsibility to carefully consider the nation's spending priorities. **We respectfully request that Congress continue to demonstrate bipartisan support for children's health and provide \$400 million in funding for CHGME for FY 2020.**

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
American College of Cardiology
American Hospital Association
American Pediatric Society
American Psychiatric Association
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Thoracic Society
America's Essential Hospitals
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
The Catholic Health Association of the United States
Children's Defense Fund
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)
Easterseals,
First Focus Campaign for Children
The Jewish Federations of North America
March of Dimes
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Military Family Association
Pediatric Policy Council
Society for Pediatric Research
Vizient, Inc.