

Improve Children's Access to Care: Increase Funding for the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) Program

March 12, 2020

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 \$465 million in FY 2021 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 some critical shortages in pediatric subspecialty care. Today, half of all pediatric residents are trained at CHGME recipient hospitals.

However, sustaining pediatric training programs at children's hospitals to meet the needs 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—we must protect children's access to care. Widening workforce shortages must be addressed, most acutely among pediatric specialties such as developmental pediatrics, child and adolescent psychiatry, and pediatric genetics and genomics—CHGME is charged with meeting this need and requires increased funding to do so.

We recognize 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 \$465 million in funding for CHGME for FY 2021.**

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Hospital Association

American Medical Student Association
American Pediatric Society
American Psychiatric Association
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Thoracic Society
America's Essential Hospitals
Association for Community Plans
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Children's Defense Fund
Easterseals
Family Voices
First Focus Campaign for Children
March of Dimes
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
Pediatric Policy Council
Society for Pediatric Research
The Catholic Health Association of the United States
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
Vizient, Inc.