May 1, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
361A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
2372 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Harkin and Kingston and Ranking Members Moran and DeLauro:

As chairs of departments of pediatrics in medical schools across the country, we are writing to urge your support for an FY2015 appropriation of $300 million for the Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program.

CHGME provides children’s teaching hospitals with federal GME support similar to the funding that other teaching hospitals receive through Medicare. Congress has consistently supported this program, which is vital to the pediatric workforce. Prior to CHGME’s enactment, the Future of Pediatric Education Task Force reported that the lack of federal GME funding for freestanding children’s hospitals was a major threat to the future adequacy of the pediatric workforce. Today, the hospitals that receive CHGME train 49 percent of all pediatricians and 51 percent of pediatric specialists. In many specialties, such as pediatric surgery or critical care medicine, over 65 percent of physicians are trained at these children’s hospitals. We ask that you once again take leadership in protecting this all important program that is essential to pediatric health care.

Although children’s hospitals have made progress in increasing the number of pediatric residents and fellows, children’s hospitals all over the country continue to experience significant staff shortages in some pediatric physician subspecialties. Now is not the time to take a step backwards in pediatric medicine. Appropriate funding for this program will ensure children in this country continue to have access to the world-class doctors they need and deserve for their care.

On behalf of our nation’s children and the in the interest of protecting the future of pediatric health care, we urge you to include funding of $300 million in your FY 2015 appropriations.

Sincerely,

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