March 25, 2015

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

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

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

As chairs of departments of pediatrics in medical schools across the country, we are writing to urge your support for an FY2016 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. 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.

Congress has a long history of support for CHGME program and bipartisan legislation reauthorizing the program through FY 2018 was enacted in 2014. 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 2016 appropriations for CHGME.
Sincerely,

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