A LETTER FROM THE NATION’S CHAIRS
OF MEDICAL SCHOOL PEDIATRICS DEPARTMENTS

March 18, 2016

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 Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
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 FY2017 appropriation of $300 million for the Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program.

Congress has a long history of bipartisan support for CHGME, providing $295 million in funding for the program in FY 2016. We thank you for your support and ask that you once again take leadership in protecting this all important program that is essential to pediatric health care.

CHGME provides children’s teaching hospitals with federal GME support similar to the funding that other teaching hospitals receive through Medicare. 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.

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 the time to take a step forwards 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 provide FY 2017 funding of $300 million for CHGME.

Sincerely,

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