Support the Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Program

Deadline: COB Wednesday, March 11th

Dear Colleague,

Please join us in sending the attached letter to House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole requesting continued bipartisan support for the Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) Program in Fiscal Year 2021.

The CHGME program is one of the most important federal investments we can make in strengthening children’s health care in America. CHGME recipients, only 1 percent of all hospitals, train half of all pediatric residents in the nation, including 45 percent of general pediatric residents and 57 percent of pediatric specialty fellows. Children’s hospitals play a vital role in directly caring for kids as well as a vital role in training the pediatric workforce of tomorrow. This workforce will care for children in communities across the country—in cities, rural areas, suburbs and everywhere in between—and cover everything from well-child visits to the most complex surgeries.

CHGME provides critical support to freestanding children’s hospitals for the training of pediatricians. Strong funding is essential to increase the number of pediatric providers, address critical shortages in pediatric specialty care, and improve children’s access to care. The current level of support provided for training pediatric providers through the CHGME program lags far behind other programs aimed at medical education. We should strengthen federal investments in CHGME to help ensure a strong foundation for children’s health care across the country and into the future.

CHGME is a critical investment in our country’s medical future and helps ensure that children will have continued access to the care they need. Please join us in supporting this excellent program.

To cosign the letter, fill out this form by COB on Wednesday, March 11th. With questions, contact Rachel Fybel with Rep. Eshoo at Rachel.Fybel@mail.house.gov or San Hattrup with Rep. Bill Johnson at Sam.Hattrup@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Anna G. Eshoo

Member of Congress

Bill Johnson

Member of Congress
Dear Chairman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

Under bipartisan leadership, Congress has worked to provide support for the training of pediatric medical residents through the Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program. While Congress faces many difficult funding decisions this year, we respectfully urge you to provide CHGME with the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 funding necessary to support gains made under the program over the last decade and strengthen the pediatric workforce to better serve the needs of America’s children.

The CHGME program is the most vital investment we make as a nation in strengthening the pediatric workforce and access to care for children. CHGME was created by Congress in 1999 to address a gap in federal support for pediatric training. Since that time, it has increased the number of pediatric providers, addressed critical shortages in pediatric specialty care and broadly improved children’s access to health care. Today, the children’s hospitals that receive CHGME funding – just 1 percent of all hospitals – train half of all pediatric residents. The program ensures that general pediatricians and pediatric specialists are trained to care for children in communities across the country, covering everything from well-child visits to the most complex cardiac surgeries.

CHGME trains doctors who go on to care for children living in cities, rural communities, suburbs and everywhere in between.

Strong continued funding is essential to maintaining the pediatric workforce pipeline. While much has been achieved, much remains to be done – serious shortages in many pediatric specialties persist. Furthermore, the current level of support provided for training providers through CHGME lags far behind that provided through other federal programs on a per-trainee basis. Now is the time to take a step forward for our children.

We recognize that Congress has a responsibility to carefully consider the nation’s spending priorities. CHGME is a critical investment in our country’s medical future to ensure that children will have ongoing access to the care they need across provider settings.

We thank you for the Subcommittee’s past leadership in investing in the health care of all children and urge strengthened support for the CHGME program in FY 2021.

Respectfully,