

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

March 31, 2021

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

The Honorable Roy Blunt
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 Murray, Ranking Member Blunt, 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 \$485 million in FY 2022 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 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 per-trainee funding levels provided through other federal programs supporting physician training. This funding gap continues to grow and is not sustainable. Additionally, workforce shortages must be addressed, most acutely among pediatric specialties such as child and adolescent psychiatry, developmental pediatrics, and pediatric genetics and genomics. CHGME is charged with meeting this need and requires increased funding to do so.

Strengthening support for pediatric workforce training programs is even more important as we respond to the emergence and spread of COVID-19 within our communities. Additionally, America's children and youth are caught in a worsening mental, emotional and behavioral health crisis that has been exacerbated by the additional stresses on children and families stemming from the pandemic. CHGME supports the training of the front-line providers who are key to addressing

the needs of children and youth in this crisis. We cannot risk falling behind—we must protect children’s access to care.

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 \$485 million in funding for CHGME for FY 2022.**

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
America’s Essential Hospitals
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Hospital Association
American Pediatric Society
American Psychological Association
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Children’s Hospital Association
Family Voices
First Focus Campaign for Children
March of Dimes
National Association for Behavioral Healthcare
National Association for Children’s Behavioral Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
Pediatric Policy Council
Society for Pediatric Research
Vizient, Inc.