

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt, Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 2051

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro,

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 we recognize Congress faces many difficult funding decisions this year, we respectfully urge you to provide CHGME with strong Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) funding to strengthen the pediatric workforce, especially as our health system is dealing with the ongoing shortage of physicians across our country and the continued children's mental health crisis.

The CHGME program is the most important federal investment we make as a nation in strengthening the pediatric workforce and expanding access to care for children. CHGME is a bipartisan program that was created by Congress in 1999 to address critical shortages in pediatric specialty care, increase the number of pediatric providers, and broadly improve children's overall access to health care. Since its inception, CHGME has enabled children's hospitals to dramatically increase pediatric training overall and grow the supply of pediatric specialists.

Today, the children's hospitals that receive CHGME funding – just 1 percent of all hospitals – train about half of all pediatricians and a majority of pediatric specialists. 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. In fact, about two-thirds of physicians that train in CHGME hospitals stay to practice in the state where they completed their residency. CHGME trains doctors who go on to care for children across the nation, including those living in underserved and hard-to-reach communities.

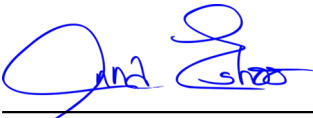
Strong, continued funding is essential to maintaining the pediatric workforce pipeline. While the CHGME program has helped make great strides toward a more robust pediatric workforce, serious shortages in many pediatric specialties persist. We are grateful that you included \$385 million for FY23 which puts CHGME on the pathway to more equitable footing with other federal provider training programs; however, funding to train pediatric providers through CHGME still lags far behind.

Strengthening support for pediatric workforce training programs is even more critical as our nation's youth are grappling with a worsening mental, emotional and behavioral health crisis that has been exacerbated by the additional stressors placed on children and families from the Covid-19 pandemic. CHGME supports the training of frontline providers who provide key services to address the needs of children caught in this crisis. As we work to serve the behavioral and mental health needs of children who are at heightened risk for related challenges, we cannot

keep up the momentum to enhance the pediatric workforce and remove barriers to children's access to care without robust funding for the CHGME program.

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 and will help ensure children have ongoing access to the specialized 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 FY24.

Sincerely,



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



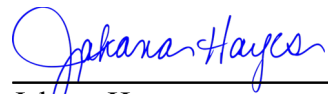
Danny K. Davis
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Eric Swalwell
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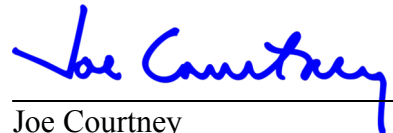
Joyce Beatty
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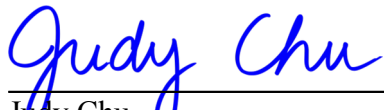
Jahana Hayes
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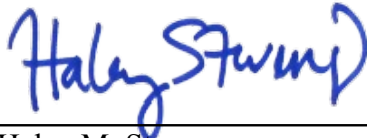
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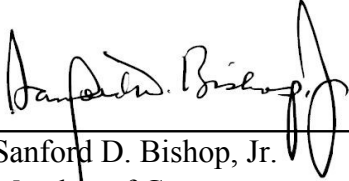
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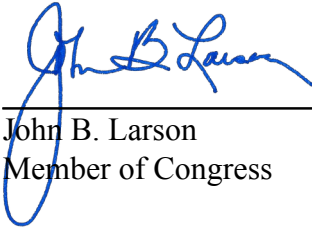
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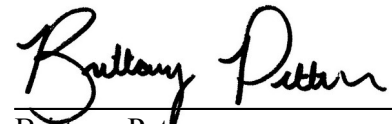
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, Committee on Ways and
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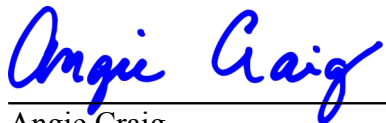
Grace F. Napolitano
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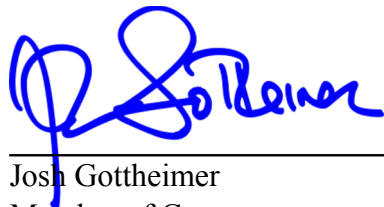
Mike Thompson
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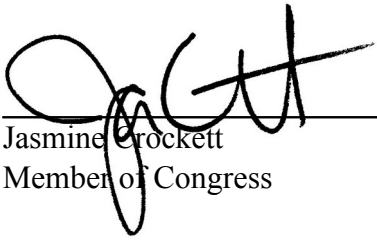
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Darin LaHood
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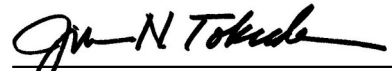
Pramila Jayapal
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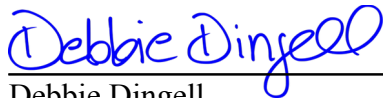
Jim Tokuda
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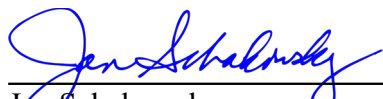
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Katie Porter
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Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
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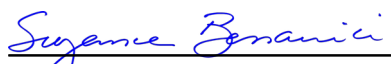
Kim Schrier, M.D.
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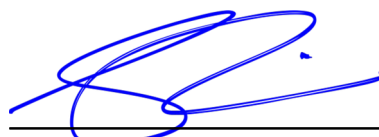
Lloyd Doggett
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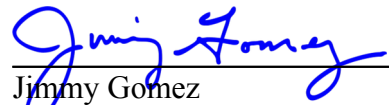
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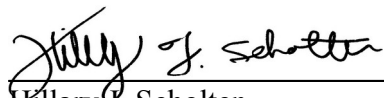
Ken Buck
Member of Congress



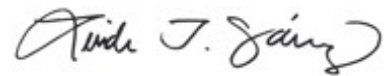
Troy Carter
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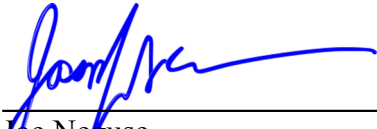
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



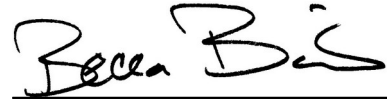
Hillary J. Scholten
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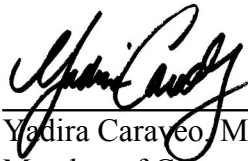
Linda T. Sanchez
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Becca Balint
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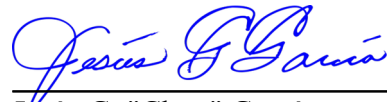
Yadira Caraveo, M.D.
Member of Congress



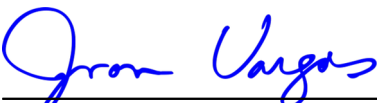
David Scott
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Adam B. Schiff
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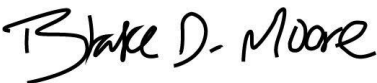
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



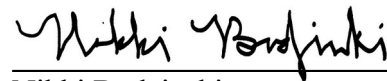
Juan Vargas
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Kevin Mullin
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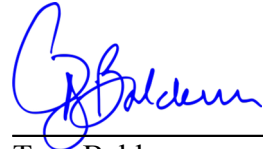
Blake D. Moore
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Nikki Budzinski
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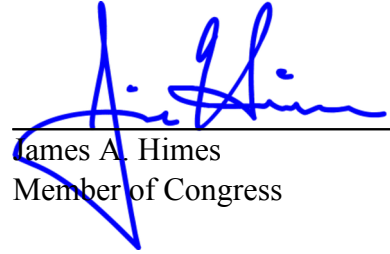
Morgan McGarvey
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Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



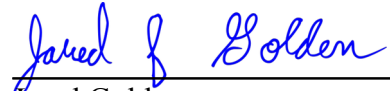
Max L. Miller
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James A. Himes
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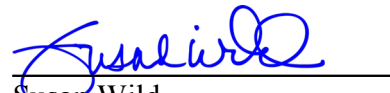
Elissa Slotkin
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Jared Golden
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Ilhan Omar
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Susan Wild
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Michael T. McCaul
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Mike Carey
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