

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Robert Aderholt, Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking DeLauro,

On a bipartisan basis, 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 (FY) 2025 funding 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, especially during the ongoing shortage of pediatricians and pediatric specialists across our country and the continuing children's mental health crisis.

The CHGME program is the most important federal investment we make as a nation in strengthening the pediatric physician workforce and expanding access to care for children. It is a bipartisan program created by Congress in 1999 to address a gap in federal support for pediatric training by increasing the number of pediatric providers, addressing critical shortages in pediatric specialty care, and broadly improving children's overall access to health care. Since its inception, CHGME has enabled children's hospitals to dramatically increase pediatric training and grow the supply of pediatric specialists. The CHGME program has helped make great strides toward a more robust pediatric workforce, yet serious shortages in many pediatric specialties persist. Strong, continued funding is essential to maintaining the pediatric workforce pipeline.

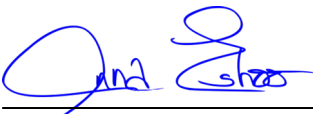
Today, the children's hospitals that receive CHGME funding – just 1% of all hospitals – train more than half of all pediatricians and pediatric specialists. The program ensures that general pediatricians and pediatric specialists are trained to care for children in communities across the country, covering everything from well-child visits to the most complex cardiac surgeries. 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 under-resourced and hard-to-reach communities.

We are grateful to you for including \$390 million for FY 2024 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. CHGME supports the training of front-line 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 can't 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 FY 2025.

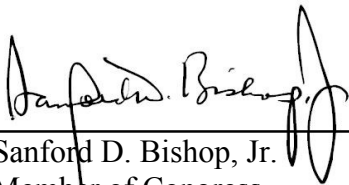
Sincerely,



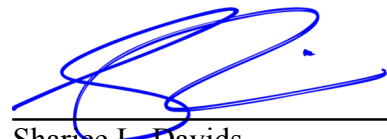
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Member of Congress



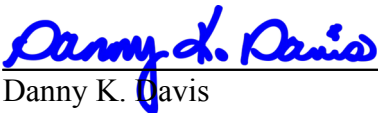
John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
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Sharice L. Davids
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Danny K. Davis
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Doris Matsui
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Colin Z. Allred
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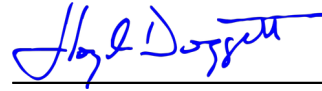
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress

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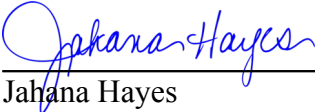
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Cori Bush
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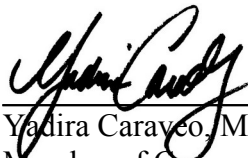
Shontel M. Brown
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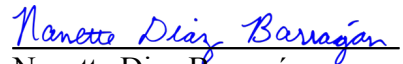
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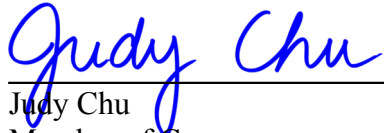
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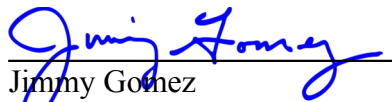
Lizzie Fletcher
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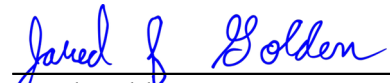
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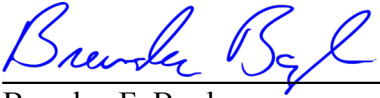
Adam B. Schiff
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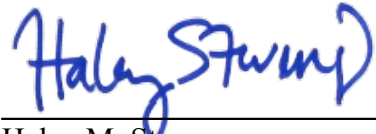
Sean Casten
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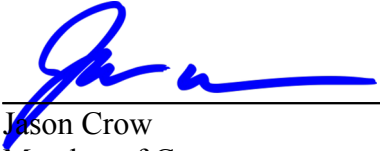
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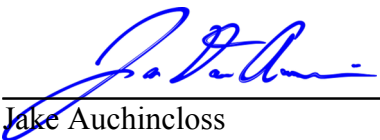
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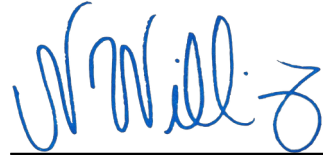
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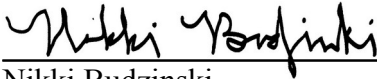
Nikema Williams
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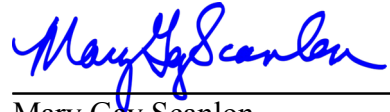
Chris Pappas
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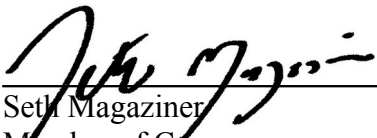
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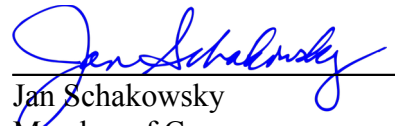
Mark DeSaulnier
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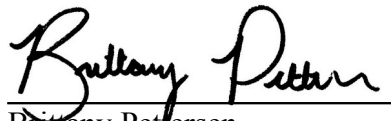
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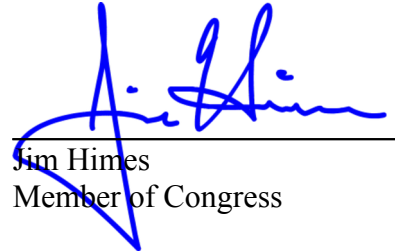
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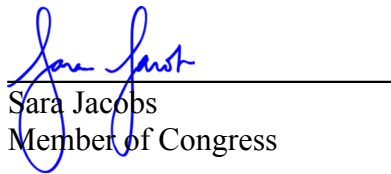
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Nick LaLota
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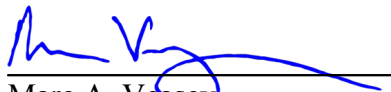
Veronica Escobar
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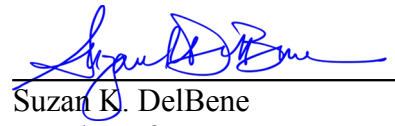
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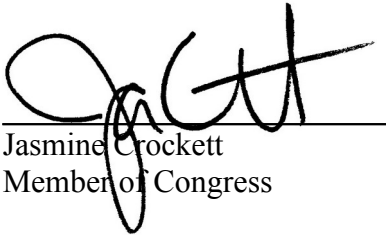
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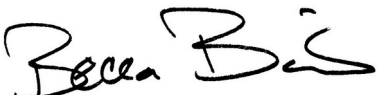
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Katie Porter
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Lucy McBath
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Becca Balint
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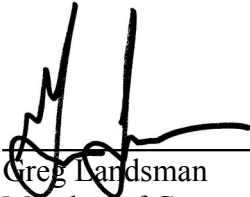
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Michael Waltz
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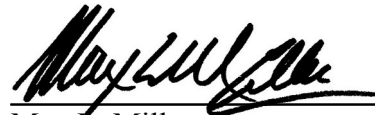
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Tony Cárdenas
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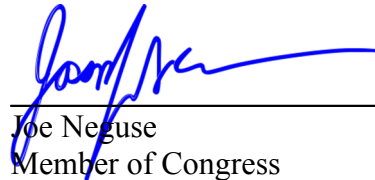
Michael T. McCaul
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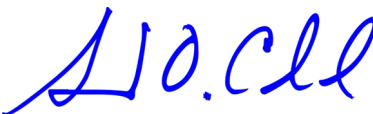
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Joe Neguse
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Salud Carbajal
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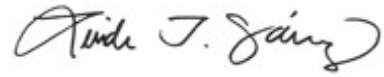
Jimmy Panetta
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Chellie Pingree
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Young Kim
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Linda T. Sánchez
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David Scott
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Pramila Jayapal
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Marilyn Strickland
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Aaron Bean
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Darren Soto
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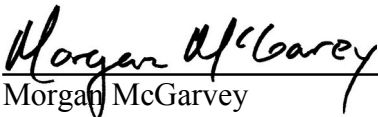
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Mark Takano
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Bradley Scott Schneider
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Morgan McGarvey
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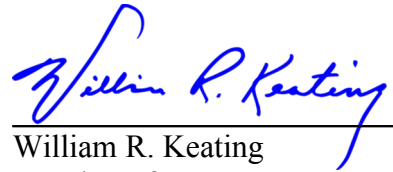
María Elvira Salazar
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Kevin Mullin
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García
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William R. Keating
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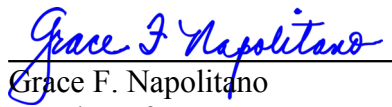
Jared Moskowitz
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Lloyd Smucker
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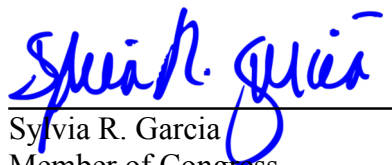
Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



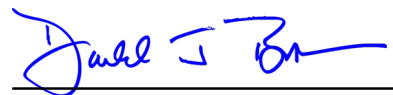
Grace F. Napolitano
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Ilhan Omar
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Sylvia R. García
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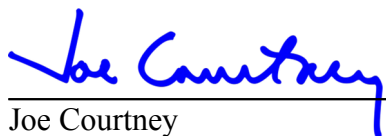
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



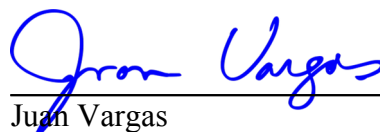
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



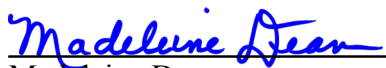
Christopher H. Smith
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Joe Courtney
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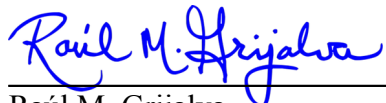
Juan Vargas
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Madeleine Dean
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Troy Carter
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Raúl M. Grijalva
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Gabe Amo
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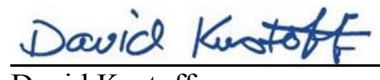
Delia C. Ramirez
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Mike Thompson
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



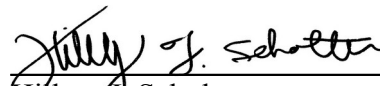
David Kustoff
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Adam Smith
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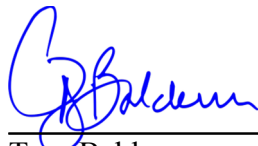
Hillary P. Scholten
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Joyce Beatty
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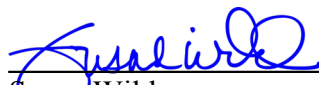
Al Green
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