

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 21, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Capito and Ranking Member Baldwin:

While we recognize Congress faces many difficult funding decisions this year, we respectfully urge you to provide strong Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 funding for the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program. Under bipartisan leadership, Congress has consistently supported the training of pediatric medical residents and strengthened the pediatric workforce that serves the needs of America's children. We are particularly grateful for the \$395 million in FY26 funding, which included a \$5 million increase over FY25. Continued robust support for CHGME is especially important as the country continues to face a youth mental health crisis and growing shortages across the pediatric health workforce.

CHGME is the most important federal investment in developing and sustaining the pediatric physician workforce and in expanding access to care for children. When Congress created the program in 1999, its intent was to fill a significant gap in federal support for pediatric training and help expand the availability of pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists. Today, CHGME hospitals train 55 percent of pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists. These providers go on to serve communities in every region of the country. About two-thirds of CHGME-funded physicians remain in the state where they trained, caring for children in both rural and urban communities.

Despite this critical role, CHGME remains significantly underfunded. CHGME accounts for only 1.7 percent of total federal GME spending, even though CHGME hospitals train the majority of the pediatric workforce. At current federal funding levels, CHGME hospitals will receive only 38 percent of what Medicare pays on a per resident basis to Medicare GME hospitals in FY 2027. Sustained and increased investment is needed to ensure that children have timely access to highly trained pediatricians and subspecialists. Without additional support, ongoing shortages in many pediatric specialties will continue, with some specialty residency programs already experiencing 20 to 40 percent fewer applicants in the last several years.

CHGME hospitals also have a broad national reach. They serve children from 99.6 percent of all counties and territories, including nearly half of rural communities. These hospitals support the training of more than 90 percent of pediatric subspecialists in fields like pathology, cardiac

anesthesiology, and pediatric rehabilitation. They also host rotations for trainees from other GME programs, including military medical programs, many of which rely on these rotations to maintain accreditation.

As our nation continues to confront increasing mental, emotional, and behavioral health needs among youth, bipartisan federal support for CHGME is more critical than ever. Continued investment is necessary to expand access to pediatric specialists and ensure that children with complex medical needs receive the care they deserve. Strengthening CHGME funding in FY 2027 will help put pediatric training programs on a more level playing field with other federal provider training programs and protect access to care for families nationwide.

We recognize that Congress must carefully consider the nation's spending priorities. However, CHGME is a vital investment in the well-being of children across the country. We thank the Subcommittee for its longstanding leadership and urge strong funding for the CHGME program in FY 2027.

Sincerely,



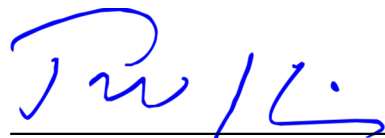
Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Jon Husted
United States Senator



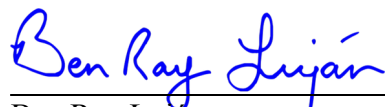
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
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Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



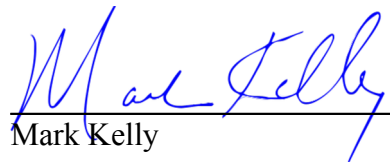
Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



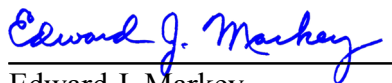
Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



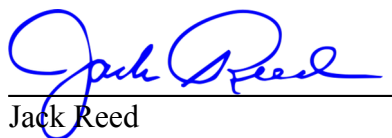
Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



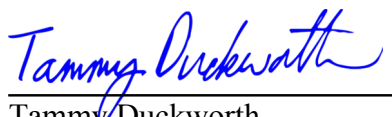
Christopher S. Murphy
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Jack Reed
United States Senator



Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



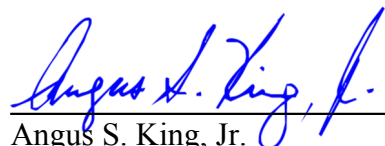
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



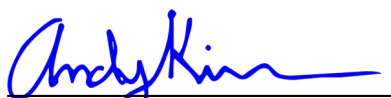
Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



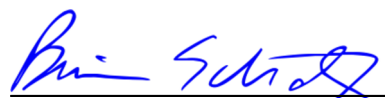
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



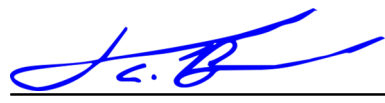
Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

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Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amy Klobuchar", written over a horizontal line.

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maria Cantwell", written over a horizontal line.

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

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Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator