April 12, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

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 for 20 years. While we recognize that Congress faces many difficult funding decisions again this year, we respectfully urge you to continue your history of bipartisan support for robust CHGME funding for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20).

The CHGME program is the largest and most important federal investment in strengthening the pediatric healthcare workforce, and has been recognized as a major success. Created by Congress in 1999, the CHGME program has helped address the gap in federal support for pediatric training by increasing the number of pediatric providers, addressing critical shortages in pediatric specialty care, and improving 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 in cities, rural communities, suburbs and everywhere in between. We urge you to provide CHGME with the funding support necessary not just to maintain the gains made under this program over the last decade, but to continue to grow our pediatric workforce, in FY20.

While the CHGME program has helped make great strides toward a more robust pediatric workforce, serious shortages in many pediatric specialties persist. Additional continued funding is essential to maintaining the pediatric workforce pipeline in the future. Through supplementary, robust investment in our nation’s future pediatric providers, we can ensure high quality care for generations to come. CHGME is a critical investment in our country’s medical future and will help ensure children maintain access to the specialized care they need in communities across the country.
We recognize that Congress has a responsibility to carefully consider the nation's spending priorities and we appreciate the Subcommittee's past leadership in investing in the healthcare of all children. We encourage you to continue to provide CHGME with the robust funding necessary to grow our pediatric workforce in the years to come in FY20.

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Johnny Isakson
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Martha McSally
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

David A. Perdue
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator
Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

Tom Carper
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator