



Children's Hospital Association Statement for the Record

U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce Hearing “Legislative Proposals to Support Patients and Caregivers” February 14, 2024

On behalf of the Children's Hospital Association (CHA), representing over 200 children's hospitals nationwide, we appreciate the opportunity to submit this statement for the record for today's Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health hearing titled “Legislative Proposals to Support Patients and Caregivers.”

We commend the Subcommittee for its dedication to addressing crucial issues impacting the well-being of our nation's children and families. CHA strongly supports the following four bills slated for discussion during the hearing:

- H.R. 6960 – Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Reauthorization Act:** We wholeheartedly endorse H.R. 6960, the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Reauthorization Act. This critical legislation demonstrates a strong commitment to pediatric emergency care by authorizing essential funding of \$22.3 million through fiscal year 2024 and \$24.3 million annually from 2025 through 2029. We all understand that children are not little adults and need specialized care, especially in emergency situations, such as child-appropriate equipment in ambulances and emergency departments. This funding is instrumental in guaranteeing that the EMSC program continues to work with states to expand and improve emergency medical services for children so they have pediatric-focused and pediatric-appropriate care no matter where they live. By providing financial support to this critical program, the bill ensures that pediatric patients, irrespective of their location, receive prompt and effective emergency medical attention, addressing the unique needs and vulnerabilities of our nation's youngest and most fragile population. This investment is pivotal for sustaining and enhancing emergency medical services dedicated to children, ultimately contributing to improved health outcomes and the overall well-being of our pediatric communities, including those served by children's hospitals across the country. Thank you, Reps. Carter, Castor, Joyce, and Schrier for introducing this vital legislation for kids.
- H.R. 5012 – SHINE for Autumn Act:** We wholeheartedly support H.R. 5012, the SHINE for Autumn Act, sponsored by Reps. Kim, Castor, Joyce, and Kelly. This legislation seeks to authorize \$5 million annually for fiscal years 2024-2028, providing grants to states for the enhancement of stillbirth data collection and reporting. This initiative is crucial for understanding the root causes of stillbirths and developing prevention strategies through comprehensive risk factor analysis, particularly benefiting children and families served by our nation's children's hospitals.
- H.R. 7153 – Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Reauthorization Act:** CHA strongly supports H.R. 7153, the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Reauthorization Act, sponsored by Reps. Wild, Kiggans, Carter, and Dingell. The Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection program is a first-of-its-kind program to bolster the mental health and well-being of our nation's health care

workforce. It provides crucial grants to health care organizations to enable the delivery of essential behavioral health services to reduce burnout amongst front-line health care providers. The program also supports a national campaign supporting hospital leaders in promoting worker well-being and provides grants for employee education and peer-support. Reauthorization of this program is paramount for fostering a resilient health care workforce and underscores a commitment to the mental health and well-being of those at the forefront of health care delivery and a sustainable and robust health care workforce that positively impacts the quality of care provided to children and families served by our nation's children's hospitals.

4. **H.R. 7300 – Family-to-Family Reauthorization Act:** CHA stands in firm support of the reauthorization of the Family-to-Family Health Information Centers (F2F HICs) program through HR 7300. These family-led and staffed centers play a vital role in providing essential guidance and support to families of children with special health care needs navigating the health care system and critical supports. By extending funding for an additional five years, this bill ensures families can access critical information about health care resources, treatments, and services for their children facing health care challenges. We appreciate Reps. Sherrill and De La Cruz for introducing H.R. 7300.

These bills collectively address critical gaps in pediatric health care and demonstrate a commitment to improving the overall well-being of children across the nation. We are confident that the subcommittee's consideration of these legislative proposals will lead to positive outcomes for pediatric patients and their families.

We are also grateful you are taking up the Dr. Lorna Breen program reauthorization and encourage you to look at additional ways to support the mental and physical health and safety of health care providers.

Thank you for your continued bipartisan efforts in championing policies that directly influence the health and well-being of our nation's children and the health care workforce. CHA is enthusiastic about the prospect of collaborating with the subcommittee and other stakeholders to advance legislation that prioritizes child health, ensuring access to quality care, promoting healthy development, and fostering an environment conducive to the overall happiness and prosperity of our youngest citizens. Together, we can actively contribute to shaping a brighter and healthier future for the children and families across our nation.