

Protect Children's Health: Fund Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME)

April 20, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program protects children's access to high quality medical care by providing eligible children's hospitals with funding to support the training of pediatric providers. **As groups dedicated to protecting and advancing the health of America's children, we thank Senate and House appropriators for their longstanding bipartisan support of CHGME, and ask you to provide \$330 million in FY 19 funding for the program.**

CHGME is an essential investment in our children's health care. By strengthening the pediatric workforce pipeline, the program expands access to care for all children. Since Congress created the program in 1999 children's hospitals have been able to grow their training programs significantly, increasing the number of pediatric providers and addressing critical shortages in pediatric subspecialty care. Today, half of all pediatric residents are trained at CHGME recipient hospitals.

Strong continued funding is essential to maintaining the gains that have been achieved under CHGME in bolstering the pediatric workforce pipeline. While much has been achieved, much remains to be done, as shortages in many pediatric subspecialties persist. Now is the time to take a step forwards in advancing children's health.

We recognize that Congress has a responsibility to carefully consider the nation's spending priorities. **We respectfully request that the subcommittees continue to demonstrate bipartisan support for children's health and provide \$330 million in funding for CHGME for FY 2019.**

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Cardiology
American College of Surgeons
American Foundation for the Blind
American Hospital Association

American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Thoracic Society
America's Essential Hospitals
Association of American Medical Colleges
Autism Speaks
Children's Defense Fund
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation
Family Voices
First Focus
March of Dimes
Military Special Needs Network
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Marrow Donor Program / Be The Match
National Military Family Association
Tricare for Kids Coalition
ZERO TO THREE