

The Honorable Dennis Rehberg  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education and  
Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education and  
Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rehberg and Ranking Member DeLauro:

More than a decade ago, Congress passed the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program with broad bipartisan support to provide freestanding children's hospitals with the same federal GME funding that Medicare GME provides to other teaching hospitals. Today, we urge you to maintain this important program, which supports the training of so much of the nation's pediatric workforce, and to restore the stability of its funding.

We thank the House Committee on Appropriations for its longstanding support of CHGME. We also appreciate the difficult budgetary climate and the pressure to reduce discretionary spending. However, we believe that the plan to eliminate the CHGME program in the President's FY 2012 budget would be detrimental to our nation's goals of strengthening the primary care workforce and ensuring timely access to necessary, high-quality specialty care. We are also deeply concerned about the impact of the 15 percent cut in funding for the program following enactment of the final FY 2011 continuing resolution, which turns back the clock on the program by nearly 10 years in terms of federal support at a time when the nation faces a critical shortage of pediatric specialty care.

CHGME is an essential investment in our children's health care – in prevention and primary care, health care for vulnerable and underserved children, and access to care for all children. More than 40 percent of all general pediatric and pediatric specialty training is provided in the children's hospitals that receive their federal GME funding through CHGME. In many specialties, such as pediatric surgery, over 65% of physicians are trained at these children's hospitals. The program has been a major success, enabling children's hospitals to sustain and grow their teaching programs and to expand the diversity of their training experiences in response to local and national needs. It has accounted for much of the growth in pediatric training overall and expanded children's access to care.

Although CHGME is a relatively small program, receiving \$317.5 million in FY 2010, it is one of our most important investments in strengthening children's health care in America. Again, we understand that these are tough budgetary times, but what our nation cannot afford is to further jeopardize children's access to physicians trained to meet their unique needs.

We respectfully request that the Committee continue its history of bipartisan support for the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education program and include stable funding in the FY 2012 appropriations bills for this vital program.

Sincerely,

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery  
Academic Pediatric Association  
Akron Children's Hospital  
Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association  
All Children's Hospital  
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology (ASPHO)  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Pediatrics- New Jersey Chapter  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Board of Pediatrics  
American College of Rheumatology  
American Pediatric Society  
American Pediatric Surgical Association  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons  
American Thoracic Society  
Arkansas Children's Hospital  
Ascension Health  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Beaumont Children's Hospital  
Birmingham Business Alliance  
Blank Children's Hospital  
Blythedale Children's Hospital  
Business Council of Alabama  
California Children's Hospital Association  
Catholic Health Association  
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy  
Children's Hospital Los Angeles  
Children's Specialty Care Coalition  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's Health Care of Atlanta  
Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska  
Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland  
Children's Hospital Association of Texas  
Children's Hospital Boston  
Children's Hospital Central California  
Children's Hospital Colorado

Children's Hospital Los Angeles  
Children's Hospital of Alabama  
Children's Hospital of Michigan  
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC  
Children's Hospital of Richmond  
Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters  
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin  
Children's Hospital, New Orleans, LA  
Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota  
Children's Medical Center of Dallas  
Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, Illinois  
Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics  
Children's National Medical Center  
Children's Specialized Hospital, Mountainside, NJ  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center  
College of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Connecticut Children's Medical Center  
Cook Children's Hospital  
Creighton University School of Medicine  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Dallas Citizens Council  
Dallas Regional Chamber (DRC)  
Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council  
Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, a Member of the Seton Healthcare Family  
Driscoll Children's Health Plan  
East Tennessee Children's Hospital  
Eastern Virginia Medical School Department of Pediatrics  
Family Voices  
Federation of Pediatric Organizations  
Florida Association of Children's Hospitals  
Georgia Hospital Association  
Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare  
Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA)  
Healthcare Association of New York State  
HealthTeacher, Inc.  
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia  
Intermountain Healthcare Salt Lake City, Utah  
Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children  
Kennedy Krieger Institute  
Kosair Children's Hospital  
LaRabida Children's Hospital  
Le Bonheur Children's Hospital  
Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford  
Lupus Research Institute

March of Dimes Foundation  
Mary Bridge Children's Hospital  
Medical University of South Carolina Children's Hospital  
Methodist Healthcare Ministries  
Metro Minnesota Council on Graduate Medical Education  
Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council  
Miami Children's Hospital  
Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach  
Minnesota Hospital Association  
Missouri Hospital Association  
Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health  
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems  
Nationwide Children's Hospital  
Nationwide Children's Hospital Sports Medicine Fellowship Program  
Nemours  
Nemours' Children's Hospital  
Nemours' Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children  
New England Alliance for Children's Health  
New Jersey Hospital Association  
New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce  
Niswonger Children's Hospital Mountain States Health Alliance Johnson City, Tennessee  
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Oregon Health and Science University  
Phoenix Children's Hospital  
Pediatrix Medical Group  
Prevent Child Abuse Utah Ogden, Utah  
Primary Children's Medical Center Salt Lake City, Utah  
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego  
Regions Hospital  
Seattle Children's Hospital  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
Society for Pediatric Research  
St. Christopher's Hospital for Children  
St. Joseph's Children's Hospital of Tampa  
St. Jude's Children's Hospital  
St. Louis Children's Hospital  
St. Vincent's HealthCare  
Teaching Hospitals of Texas  
Texas Breastfeeding Coalition  
Texas Children's Hospital  
Texas Medical Association  
Texas Pediatric Society  
Texas State Employees Union/CWA Local 6186  
The American Board of Pediatrics  
The Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
The Children's Medical Center of Dayton  
The Council of Pediatric Subspecialties  
The National Center for Adoption Law & Policy at Capital University Law School  
The University of Tennessee Health Science Center  
UHA, Utah Hospitals and Health Systems Association Salt Lake City, Utah  
University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital  
University of Michigan C. S. Mott Children's Hospital  
University of Utah, Department of Pediatrics Salt Lake City, Utah  
Utah Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Voices for America's Children  
Voices for Georgia's Children  
Voices for Ohio's Children  
WI Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Wisconsin Health and Hospital Association