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April 23, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Energy
and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Burgess
Chairman
Health Subcommittee
U.S. House Committee on Energy
and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Energy
and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gene Green
Ranking Member
Health Subcommittee
U.S. House Committee on Energy
and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Burgess, and Ranking Member Green:

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a non-profit professional organization of 66,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical sub-specialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, I write to endorse the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2018 (H.R. 5385). This bipartisan legislation would reauthorize the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program for five years, providing a critical investment in America's future pediatric workforce. Importantly, it increases the authorization level from \$300 million to \$330 million, recognizing the need to continue to build on the past success of this program with additional funding and in line with increased funding provided through the appropriations process.

Funding from the CHGME program is necessary to maintain the number of pediatric residents and fellows in the United States and represents a major step toward accomplishing the goal of providing freestanding children's hospitals with similar levels of GME funding that other hospitals current receive through the Medicare program. Despite representing less than one percent of hospitals, freestanding children's hospitals train half of all pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists. CHGME provides these hospitals with the means to maintain and expand teaching programs to pediatric residents and fellows.

Through the CHGME program, participating children's hospitals have improved their training experience for residents and fellows and have created new and innovative programs to provide more comprehensive care to underserved communities in urban and rural areas. CHGME provides essential support not only to pediatric primary care, but also to pediatric subspecialty care, an area for which there are serious demonstrated workforce shortages across the country.

Thank you for your strong commitment to the health and well-being of children, and we look forward to working with you to move this important legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Colleen A. Kraft

Colleen A. Kraft, MD, FAAP

President

CK/jdb