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April 2, 2018

The Honorable Michael Burgess, M.D.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gene Green
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Burgess and Ranking Member Green,

On behalf of America's children's hospitals and the patients and families we serve, thank you for introducing, H.R. 5385, "The Children's Hospital GME Support Act of 2018." We applaud your unwavering determination to advocate for children's health.

The bipartisan leadership you have shown not only in this congress but over the past several years in championing CHGME has been instrumental to building and maintaining support in congress for this important program. The future of pediatric health care cannot be compromised. CHGME has a proven track record of success and represents a high-value investment in children's health care. We deeply appreciate the opportunity to work with you to ensure children's hospitals in Texas and throughout the country maintain the ability to train the best and brightest doctors to treat our nation's children.

The CHGME program supports child health nationally by funding the training of pediatric providers at eligible children's hospitals. CHGME recipient hospitals – only 1 percent of all hospitals – train approximately half of the nation's pediatricians and pediatric specialists, more than 7,000 annually. While CHGME has been successful in promoting access to care, much remains to be done. Serious workforce shortages persist, most acutely among pediatric specialties, though localized shortages of pediatric primary care also continue in certain areas. Reauthorizing the program for an additional five years and increasing the authorization level to \$330 million, as called for under H.R. 5385, will allow children's hospitals to maintain and grow training programs that target the unique needs of children.

We also wish to acknowledge the excellent work of your staff, in particular Edward Kim and Sergio Espinosa, in support of advancing reauthorization. Their contributions are invaluable to the success of this bipartisan effort.

We look forward to working with you to achieve passage of H.R. 5385 this year. Thank you again for your leadership and support of children's health.

Very best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mark Wietecha'.

Mark Wietecha
President and Chief Executive Officer
Children's Hospital Association