

**Opening Statement of Chairman Walden
Subcommittee on Health
“Reauthorization of the Children’s Hospital Graduate Medical Education
Program”
May 23, 2018**

Good afternoon. Before us today is legislation to reauthorize the Children’s Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program. I would be remiss not to note that this bipartisan bill is authored by two Texans who just so happen to be the leaders of this subcommittee – Ranking Member Gene Green (D-TX) and Chairman Michael Burgess (R-TX).

H.R. 5385, the Children’s Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2018 will reauthorize federal funding for graduate medical education at our nation’s freestanding children’s hospitals. As you all know, Medicare remains the single largest payer of graduate medical education.

First established in 1999, the Children’s Hospital Graduate Medical Education payment program, commonly referred to as CHGME, specifically supports children’s teaching hospitals, which do not receive a significant amount of federal dollars for their residential training programs due to the low volume of Medicare patients. By reimbursing these teaching hospitals for the training of

physicians, CHGME builds pediatric health workforce, helping to ensure that every child has access to quality care.

The United States is facing a severe shortage of physicians and the case is no different for pediatric specialists. Now more than ever, we must continue to support this vital training program for pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists in children's hospitals.

The authorization for this important program expires on September 30, 2018, so it is important we complete our work on time.

I look forward to hearing from today's witnesses and gaining their feedback on our efforts. We appreciate you all taking the time to be with us today. And lastly, thank you again to the Health Subcommittee Chairman and Ranking Member for their leadership on this issue.