Improve Children's Access to Care: Increase Funding for the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) Program

March 12, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt

Chairman

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and

Related Agencies

Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro

Chairman

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and

Related Agencies

House 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

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and

Related Agencies

House Committee on Appropriations

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

The Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program is a vital investment in strengthening the pediatric workforce and access to care for children. As groups dedicated to protecting and advancing the health of America's children, we thank you for your longstanding bipartisan support of CHGME and ask you to provide \$465 million in FY 2021 funding for the program.

Since Congress created the CHGME program in 1999, children's hospitals have been able to grow their training programs significantly, increasing the number of pediatric providers and addressing some critical shortages in pediatric subspecialty care. Today, half of all pediatric residents are trained at CHGME recipient hospitals.

However, sustaining pediatric training programs at children's hospitals to meet the needs of children—now and in the future—requires bolstering our national commitment. Support for training pediatric providers through CHGME lags behind the per-trainee levels provided through other federal programs. We cannot risk falling behind—we must protect children's access to care. Widening workforce shortages must be addressed, most acutely among pediatric specialties such as developmental pediatrics, child and adolescent psychiatry, and pediatric genetics and genomics—CHGME is charged with meeting this need and requires increased funding to do so.

We recognize Congress has a responsibility to carefully consider the nation's spending priorities. We respectfully request that Congress continue to demonstrate bipartisan support for children's health and provide \$465 million in funding for CHGME for FY 2021.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association American Academy of Pediatrics American Hospital Association American Medical Student Association

American Pediatric Society

American Psychiatric Association

American Society of Pediatric Nephrology

American Thoracic Society

America's Essential Hospitals

Association for Community Plans

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs

Children's Defense Fund

Easterseals

Family Voices

First Focus Campaign for Children

March of Dimes

National Association for Children's Behavioral Health

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Pediatric Policy Council

Society for Pediatric Research

The Catholic Health Association of the United States

The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health

Vizient, Inc.