

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 3, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Moran:

Under bipartisan leadership, Congress has worked to provide freestanding children's hospitals with funding to support the training of medical residents through the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program. While we recognize that Congress faces many difficult funding decisions again this year, we respectfully urge you to provide CHGME with the FY 2015 funding support necessary to maintain the gains made under the program over the last decade.

The CHGME program represents the most important federal investment in strengthening the pediatric workforce and has been a major success. Since it was created by Congress in 1999 to address the gap in federal support for pediatric training, CHGME has increased the number of pediatric providers, addressed critical shortages in pediatric specialty care, and improved children's access to care. Today, the children's hospitals that receive CHGME, less than one percent of all hospitals, train 49 percent of all pediatric residents. The program ensures that general pediatricians and pediatric specialists are trained to care for children in communities across the country, covering everything from well-child visits to the most complex cardiac surgeries. CHGME trains doctors who go on to care for children living in metropolitan cities, rural communities, suburbs and everywhere in between.

In FY 2014, Congress continued its long history of bipartisan support for this program by again appropriating funding for CHGME, as it has every year since the program's creation. Continued funding is essential to maintaining the gains that have been achieved under CHGME and strengthening the pediatric workforce pipeline. While much has been achieved, much remains to be done, as serious shortages in many pediatric specialties persist, often resulting in long wait times for care. Now is not the time to take a step backwards in pediatric medicine.

We recognize that the current budget climate is extraordinarily challenging and that Congress has a responsibility to carefully consider the nation's spending priorities. CHGME is a critical investment in our country's medical future to ensure that children will have continuing access to the care they need across provider settings. We thank you for the Subcommittee's past leadership in investing in the healthcare of all children and urge continued support for the CHGME program in FY 2015.

Respectfully,

Sherrod Brown

Sherrod Brown

Johnny Isakson

Johnny Isakson

Bob Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Patrick Leahy

Patrick J. Leahy

Jeanne Shaheen

Jeanne Shaheen

Carl Levin

Carl Levin

Chuck Schumer

Charles E. Schumer

Debbie Stabenow

Debbie Stabenow

Barbara Boxer

Barbara Boxer

Brian Schatz

Brian Schatz

Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Richard J. Durbin

Richard J. Durbin

Mazie Hirono

Mazie K. Hirono

Elizabeth Warren

Elizabeth Warren

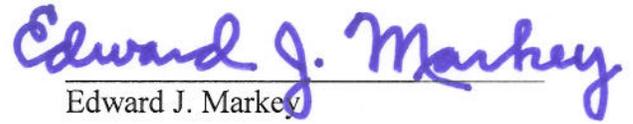
Robert Menendez

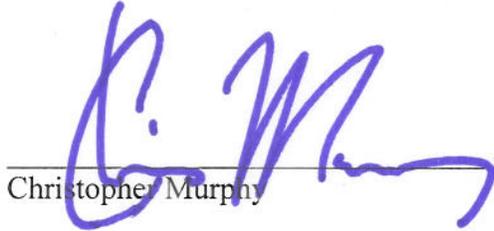
Robert Menendez

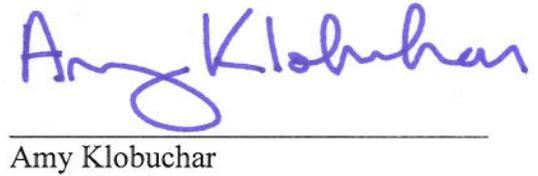
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Tammy Baldwin

  
Thomas R. Carper

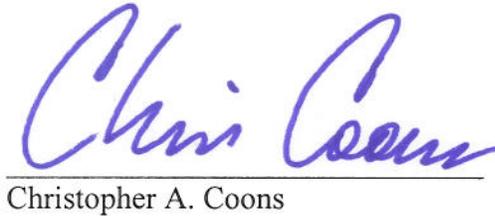
  
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Christopher Murphy

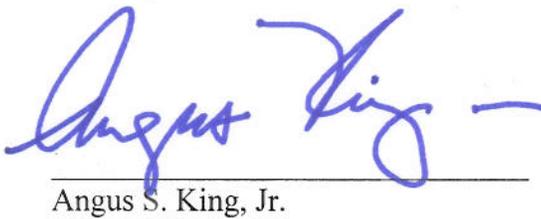
  
Amy Klobuchar

  
Bill Nelson

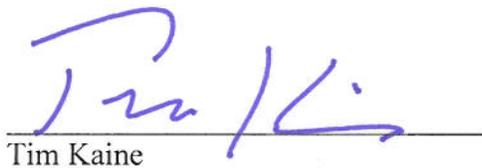
  
Richard Blumenthal

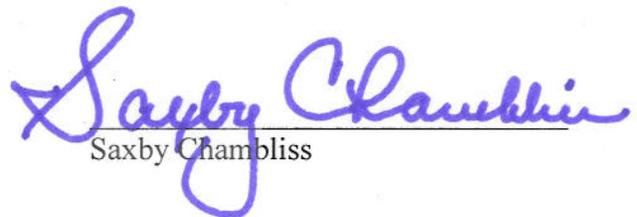
  
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Al Franken

  
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Cory Booker

  
Tim Kaine

  
Saxby Chambliss