

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
135 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

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 this year, we respectfully urge you to provide CHGME with the FY 2016 funding support necessary to maintain the gains made over the last decade.

The CHGME program represents the most important federal investment in strengthening the pediatric healthcare workforce and has been a major success. CHGME was created by Congress in 1999 to address the gap in federal support for pediatric training. Since its creation, the CHGME program has increased the number of pediatric providers, addressed critical shortages in pediatric specialty care, and improved children's access to health care. Today, the children's hospitals that receive CHGME, less than one percent of all hospitals, train 49 percent of all pediatric residents. This 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 trained doctors then go on to care for children throughout the nation.

In 2014, Congress continued its long history of bipartisan support for this program both by appropriating funding for CHGME and by enacting reauthorizing the program through FY 2018. 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. Now is not the time to take a step backwards in pediatric medicine.

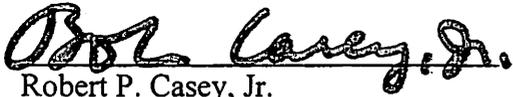
We recognize that the current budget climate is extraordinarily challenging and that Congress has a responsibility to carefully consider the nation's spending priorities. CHGME is a critical investment in our country's medical future to ensure that children will have continuing access to the care they 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 2016.

Respectfully,

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator


Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



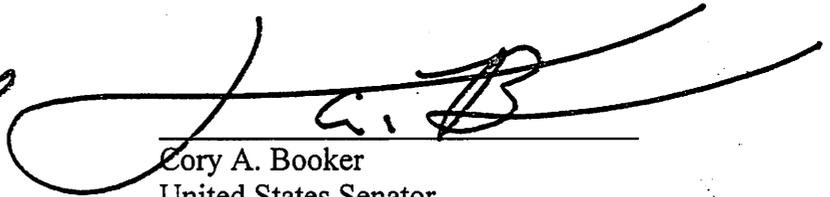
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



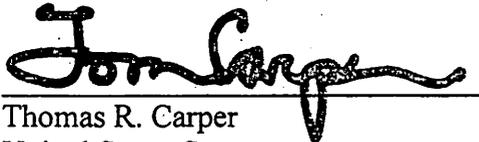
Cory A. Booker
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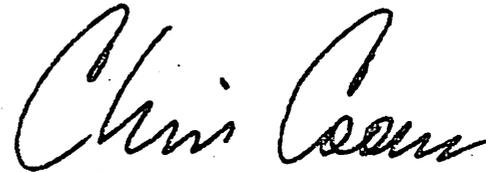
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



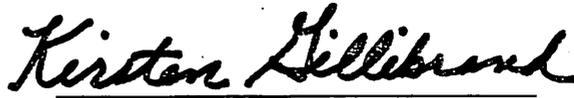
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United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Kristen Gillibrand
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator