

October 29, 2013

The Honorable Robert Casey  
393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Johnny Isakson  
131 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey and Senator Isakson:

On behalf of organizations dedicated to the health of all children, we write to share our strong support for the *Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013* (S. 1557). This bill would reauthorize a program that is critical to producing our nation's pediatricians. We are pleased that the Senate has made a bipartisan agreement to move forward on reauthorizing this important program.

Funding from the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program is necessary to maintain the number of pediatric residents and fellows in the United States, and represents a major step towards accomplishing the goal of providing children's hospitals with similar levels of GME funding that other hospitals currently receive through the Medicare program. Despite representing less than one percent of hospitals, children's hospitals train half of all pediatricians and pediatric specialists. CHGME funding provides these hospitals with the means to maintain and expand teaching programs to pediatric residents and fellows.

Through the CHGME program, children's hospitals have improved their training experience for residents and fellows and have created new and innovative programs to provide more comprehensive care to underserved communities in urban and rural areas. CHGME provides essential support not only to pediatric primary care, but also to pediatric subspecialty care, an area for which there are serious demonstrated workforce shortages across the country.

We thank you for your strong commitment to the health and wellbeing of children, and we look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,



David Keller, MD  
President  
Academic Pediatric Association



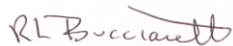
Thomas K. McInerney, MD, FAAP  
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Rick Bucciarelli, MD  
Chair  
Pediatric Policy Council



Steven P. Miller, MD  
President  
Society for Pediatric Research

CC: Sen. Tom Harkin, Chair, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
Sen. Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions