PROTECT CHILDREN’S HOSPITALS GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

March 21, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner  The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives  Democratic Leader
H-2323 US Capitol  H-204 US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers  The Honorable Norm Dicks
Chairman  Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations  Committee on Appropriations
H-307 US Capitol  1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dennis Rehberg  The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairman  Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education and Related  Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies  Agencies
Committee on Appropriations  Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Dicks, Chairman Rehberg, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We thank the House for its long-standing bipartisan support of the Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program and for your efforts to date to ensure stable CHGME funding for the remainder of fiscal year 2011.

While we appreciate the difficult budgetary climate and the pressure to reduce discretionary spending, we urge the House to continue to maintain this important federal program that directly supports the training of pediatricians and pediatric specialists at free-standing children’s hospitals and provide continued stable funding for CHGME in the FY 2011 appropriations bills.

CHGME provides critically important federal GME support for freestanding children’s hospitals, similar to the support that other teaching hospitals receive through Medicare GME. It has been a major success, enabling children’s hospitals to sustain and grow their teaching programs in response to local and national needs without sacrificing clinical care.

The program provides essential support for the future primary care workforce for our nation’s children and for pediatric specialty care, which is the greatest workforce
shortage in children’s health care. CHGME hospitals train 40 percent of all pediatricians, almost 60 percent of whom are in general pediatrics. The program also supports the training of 43 percent of the nation’s pediatric specialists and the majority of pediatric researchers.

CHGME is a relatively small program, receiving $317.5 million in FY 2010, but it is one of our most important investments in strengthening children’s health care in America. Again, we understand that these are tough budgetary times, but what our nation cannot afford is to further jeopardize children’s access to physicians trained to meet their unique needs.

As Congress considers government funding levels, we respectfully request that the House continue its history of strong support for the Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education program and ask for the continuation of stable funding in the FY 2011 appropriations bills for this vital program. Thank you.

Sincerely,

American Hospital Association
American Academy of Pediatrics

Association of American Medical Colleges
Academic Pediatric Association

Federation of American Hospitals
American Pediatric Society

Catholic Health Association
of the United States
Association of Medical School
Pediatric Department Chairs

National Association
of Children’s Hospitals
Council of Pediatric Subspecialties

National Association of Public Hospitals
and Health Systems
Federation of Pediatric Organizations

Society for Pediatric Research