May 24, 2011

The Honorable Joe Pitts
Chair, Subcommittee on Health
Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health
Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Casey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Pitts, Ranking Member Pallone, Senator Casey, and Senator Isakson:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to thank you for authoring the Children’s Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2011 (H.R. 1852/S. 958). The AAMC represents all 134 accredited U.S. medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 62 Department of Veterans Affairs’ medical centers; and nearly 90 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 128,000 faculty members, 75,000 medical students, and 110,000 resident physicians.

As you know, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)’s Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program provides critical support for freestanding children’s hospitals, for the future primary care workforce for our nation’s children and for pediatric specialty care – the greatest workforce shortage in children’s health care. CHGME hospitals train 40 percent of all pediatricians (mostly in general pediatrics), 43 percent of pediatric specialists, and the majority of pediatric researchers. They also provide required pediatric rotations for residents in general internal medicine and family medicine.

Your leadership on this legislation will enable the program to continue to support these activities at institutions across the country. As the nation’s supply of physicians shrinks and demand continues to grow, support for physician education and training will be essential to ensure patient access to care. Thank you again for championing this measure and for your commitment to education and training opportunities for the next generation of physicians. We look forward to working with you toward enactment and full funding for this critical program.

Sincerely,

Atul Grover, M.D., Ph.D.
AAMC Chief Advocacy Officer