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August 3, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt,

As the leaders of America's preeminent children's hospitals, we thank you for your leadership in supporting the nation's pediatric training programs. We are appreciative of the recent inclusion of \$250 million in supplemental funding for the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program that was included in the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection, and Schools (HEALS) Act. These funds will strengthen the pediatric workforce which is essential to our ability to provide access to care for children and families.

The need for a strong pediatric workforce has never been greater. The future of the pediatric workforce pipeline is at risk, especially today as the nation's children's hospitals suffer huge financial damages. CHGME has been funded at half of the level provided by the GME program on a per-resident level, and as a result, every CHGME training slot represents added financial stress on children's hospitals. The funds used to close this training gap are provided by patient care revenue and these are under continued distress due to current events and the long-term pressure on Medicaid and supplemental payments to children's hospitals.

CHGME program trains over 7,000 residents annually but represents just 2% of total federal spending on graduate medical education (GME). Medicare GME funds for similar training are expected to grow 4% this year. The additional \$250 million proposed for CHGME will further reduce the large gap in funding for training and will place a higher priority on the training of kids' doctors, supporting continued children's access to care over time.

Residents and fellows that benefit from CHGME funding are serving on the frontline and providing many critical services for children, including behavioral health and emergency services. The health needs of the nation's children and families underscore the priority to invest in a strong health care workforce and congressional support for CHGME represents a core national investment in pediatrics.

Again, thank you for your strong leadership on ensuring children will have access to pediatricians, and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues to adopt a long-term investment in CHGME. The additional funds proposed in the HEALS Act will assist in closing the training gap, and we stand ready to support your efforts to ensure this funding is included in the final package enacted by Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Anderson'.

Michael Anderson, M.D.  
President  
UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals  
San Francisco & Oakland, California

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael D. Aubin'.

Michael D. Aubin  
Hospital President  
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*Champions for Children's Health*

Nathaniel Beers  
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Advocate Children's Hospital  
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Cabell Huntington Hospital  
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Rodrigo López  
Interim President and Chief Executive Officer  
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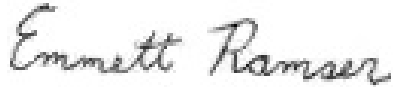
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Emmett Ramser  
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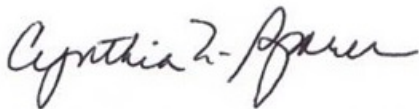
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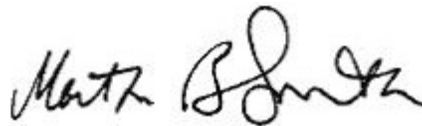
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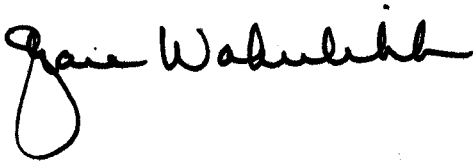




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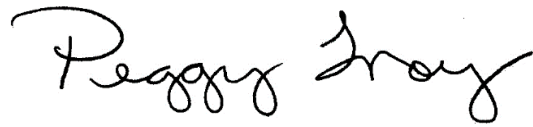
Grace Wakulchik  
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Wm. Michael Warren, Jr.  
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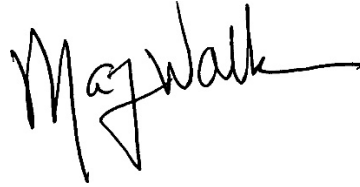
Brenda J. Wolf  
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La Rabida Children's Hospital  
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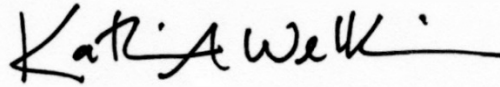
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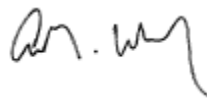
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