



July 23, 2021

The Honorable Bryan Steil
1526 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Pocan
1727 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Kind
1502 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gwen Moore
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Scott Fitzgerald
1507 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Glenn Grothman
1427 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Tiffany
1719 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Gallagher
1230 Longworth House Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of Children's Research Institute (Children's), I write today strongly encouraging you to cosponsor the bipartisan Pediatricians Accelerate Childhood Therapies (PACT) Act (H.R.3773/S.1357), which would strengthen programs at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support and sustain vital research that is necessary to support the health and well-being of our nation's children.

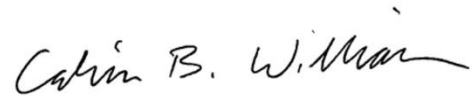
Children's Research Institute, based within Children's Wisconsin, represents the most powerful concentration of 100% pediatric-focused research in the region, leveraging collaboration and partnerships to drive significant improvements in the quality of life for kids in Wisconsin and around the nation. Focusing on translational research, we are taking discoveries from the laboratory and converting them to new therapies at patients' bedsides. Children's participation in nearly 1,000 clinical studies each year ensures our patients across subspecialties have access to the latest, most cutting-edge treatments and demonstrates our rich environment of inquiry as our researchers seek to improve pediatric health care.

The PACT Act seeks to strengthen our nation's pediatric research system by establishing a cross-NIH award for early-career researchers, including physicians and non-physicians, focusing on pediatric research. This award will support a variety of needs including research laboratory operations, obtaining mentoring and career guidance and other supports associated with achieving research independence. In addition, it help overcome the challenges unique to pediatrics in recruiting and sustaining these individuals in their careers, including recent declines in NIH awards for pediatric research training. Importantly, the legislation recognizes the underrepresentation of researchers from certain populations and would prioritize awards to meritorious applicants who have historically been underrepresented in pediatric medical research. Furthermore, the PACT Act will codify in law the Trans-NIH Pediatric Research Consortium (N-PeRC). NIH established N-PeRC more than three years ago to better coordinate

pediatric research activities across all NIH Institutes and Centers. We strongly supported this action and believe it is important that N-PerC is codified with requirements for regular reporting to Congress.

Kids are not just little adults — they need specialized care and treatment for their developing bodies. Despite advancements in medicine, much remains unknown about pediatric diseases and how to improve outcomes. This highlights the critical importance of pediatric-focused research to improve diagnoses, develop new medications and treatments, and improve care delivery for kids. The PACT Act will help support the much-needed investments in cultivating the strong pediatric research workforce need to achieve breakthrough treatments and advancements in child health outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cal Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cal Williams MD, PhD
Chief Scientific Officer, Children's Research Institute
Children's Wisconsin