

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2015

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Under bipartisan leadership, Congress has worked to provide support for the training of pediatric medical residents through the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Program (CHGME). While we recognize that Congress faces many difficult funding decisions again this year, we respectfully urge you to provide CHGME with the FY 2016 funding support necessary to maintain the gains made under the program over the last decade.

The CHGME program represents the most important federal investment in strengthening the pediatric healthcare workforce and has been a major success. CHGME was created by Congress in 1999 to address the gap in federal support for pediatric training, and has increased the number of pediatric providers, addressed critical shortages in pediatric specialty care and improved children's access to health care. Today, the children's hospitals that receive CHGME, less than one percent of all hospitals, train 49 percent of all pediatric residents. The program ensures that general pediatricians and pediatric specialists are trained to care for children in communities across the country, covering everything from well-child visits to the most complex cardiac surgeries. CHGME trains doctors who go on to care for children living in cities, rural communities, suburbs and everywhere in between.

In 2014, Congress continued its long history of bipartisan support for this program by again appropriating funding for CHGME, and by enacting bipartisan legislation reauthorizing the program through FY 2018. Continued funding is essential to maintaining the gains that have been achieved under CHGME and strengthening the pediatric workforce pipeline. While much has been achieved, much remains to be done as serious shortages in many pediatric specialties persist, often resulting in long wait times for care. Now is not the time to take a step backwards in pediatric medicine.

We recognize that the current budget climate is extraordinarily challenging and that Congress has a responsibility to carefully consider the nation's spending priorities. CHGME is a critical investment in our country's medical future to ensure that children will have continuing access to the care they need across provider settings. We thank you for the Subcommittee's past

leadership in investing in the healthcare of all children and urge continued support for the CHGME program in FY 2016.

Respectfully,



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.



Lois Capps



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.



Sheila Jackson Lee



Steve Chabot



Jason Chaffetz



Eliot L. Engel



Frederica S. Wilson



Charles B. Rangel



Jim Costa



Sam Farr



Yvette D. Clarke



Mike D. Rogers



Niki Tsongas

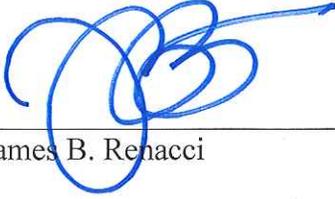


Alcee L. Hastings



Mark Takai

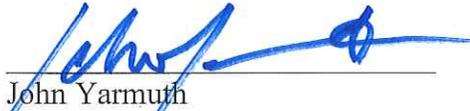
FY2016 CHGME



James B. Renacci



Gwendolymne Moore



John Yarmuth



Rob Bishop



Will Hurd



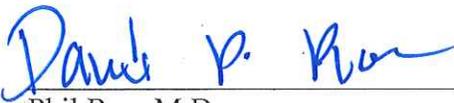
Theodore E. Deutch



James R. Langevin



Michael R. Turner



Phil Roe, M.D.



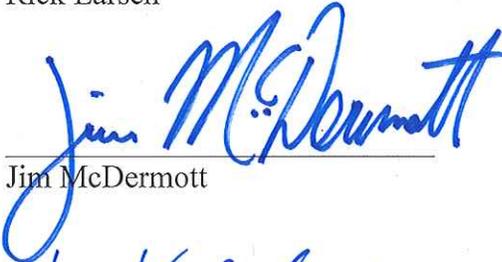
James P. McGovern



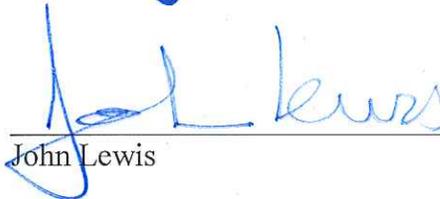
Rick Larsen



Suzan DelBene



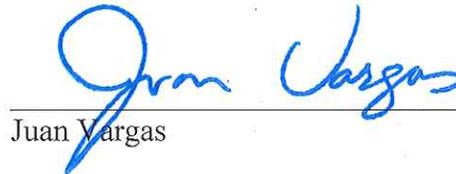
Jim McDermott



John Lewis



Luis V. Gutiérrez



Juan Vargas

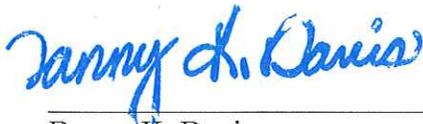


Leonard Lance



Michael T. McCaul

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Danny K. Davis



Tony Cárdenas



Loretta Sanchez



Daniel W. Lipinski



Mimi Walters



Frank Pallone, Jr.



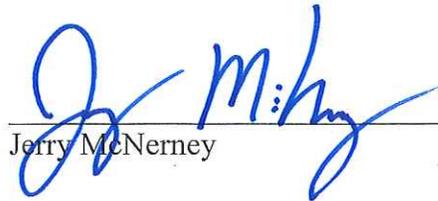
Ed Perlmutter



Don Young



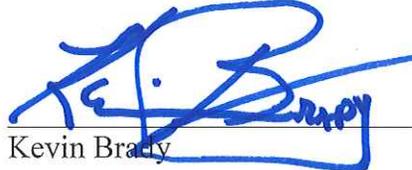
Elijah E. Cummings



Jerry McNerney



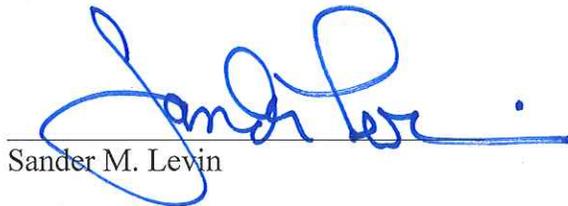
Dave Trott



Kevin Brady



Doris O. Matsui



Sander M. Levin



David Scott



Bobby L. Rush



Chellie Pingree



Mike Fitzpatrick

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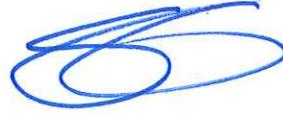
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen



Mia Love



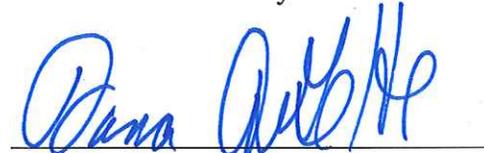
Ron Kind



Sean Patrick Maloney



Joe Barton



Diana DeGette



Dan Kildee



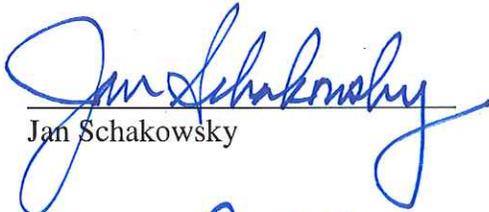
Joyce Beatty



David N. Cicilline



Alan Grayson



Jan Schakowsky



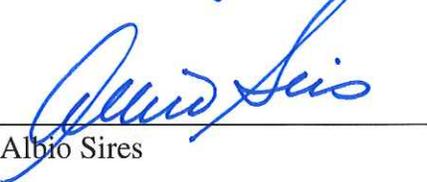
Tulsi Gabbard



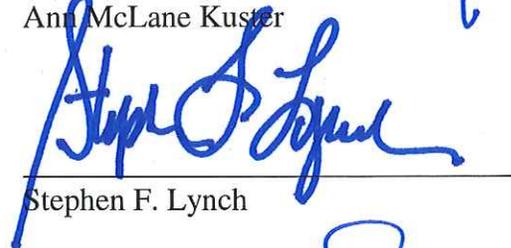
Wm. Lacy Clay



Ann McLane Kuster



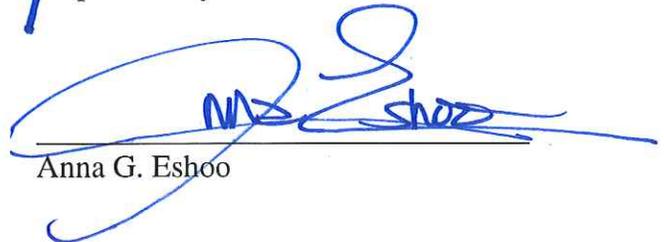
Albio Sires



Stephen F. Lynch



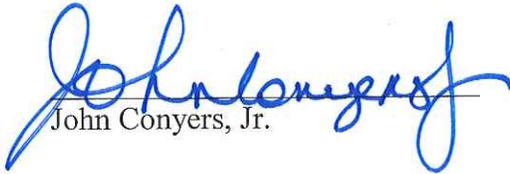
Linda T. Sánchez



Anna G. Eshoo

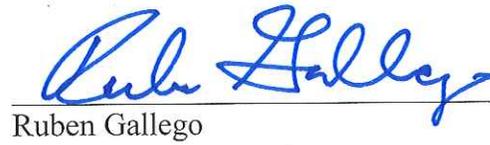

Bill Pascrell, Jr.


Blake Farenthold

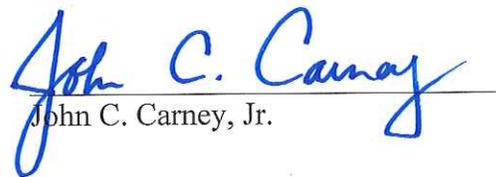

John Conyers, Jr.


Tim Murphy


Bill Johnson


Ruben Gallego


Ryan A. Costello


John C. Carney, Jr.


Glenn 'GT' Thompson

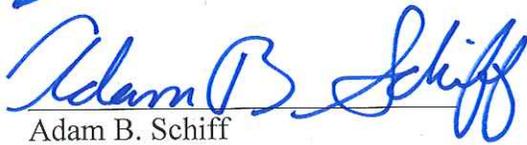

Lamar Smith


Bradley Byrne


Corrine Brown


John B. Larson


Kathy Castor


Adam B. Schiff


Matt Salmon


Alan Lowenthal


Joseph R. Pitts

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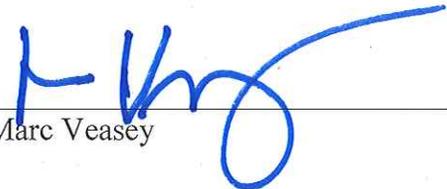

Steve Cohen


Keith Ellison


Robert A. Brady


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott


Jeff Miller

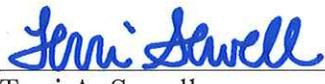

Marc Veasey


Denny Heck


Eric Swalwell


Dan Benishek, M.D.

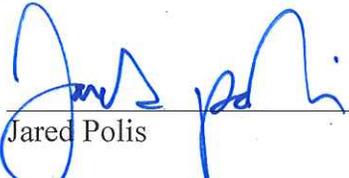

Gene Green


Terri A. Sewell


Debbie Dingell


Katherine Clark


Elizabeth H. Esty


Jared Polis


Seth Moulton

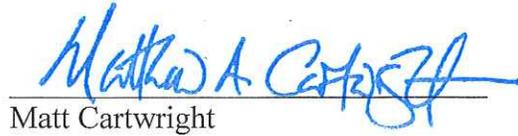

William R. Keating

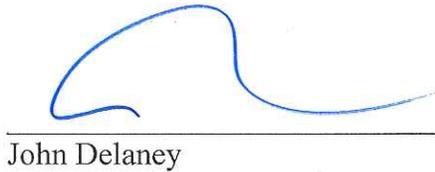

French Hill

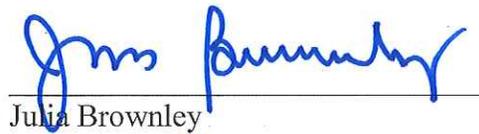

Mark DeSaulnier


Eddie Bernice Johnson

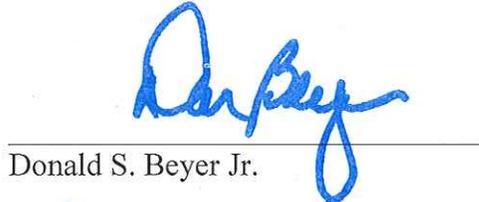

Zoe Lofgren


Matt Cartwright


John Delaney

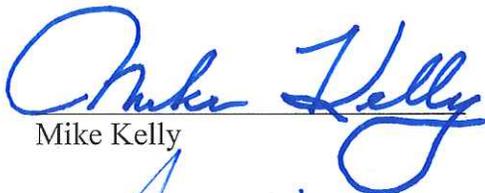

Julia Brownley


Scott Peters

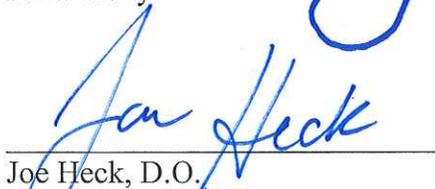

Donald S. Beyer Jr.

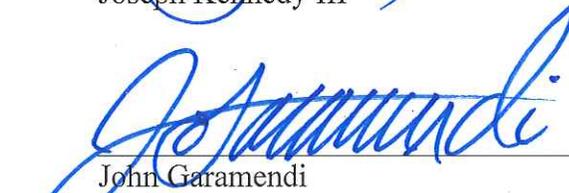

Marcia L. Fudge


Ami Bera, M.D.


Mike Kelly

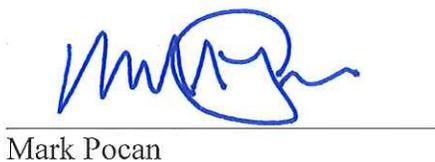

Joseph Kennedy III


Joe Heck, D.O.


John Garamendi


Steve Stivers


Tim Walz

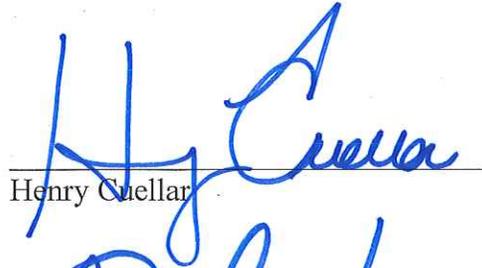

Mark Pocan


Michael E. Capuano

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Patrick Meehan



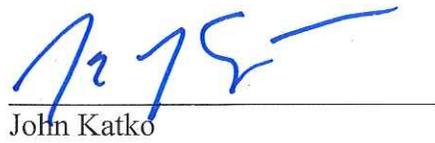
Henry Cuellar



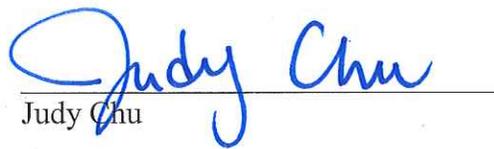
Raul Ruiz



Donald Norcross



John Katko



Judy Chu



Al Green



Jim Himes



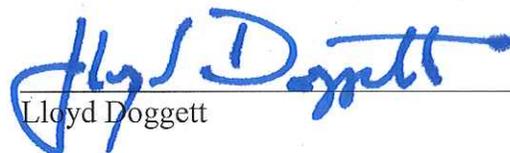
Brad Wenstrup



Cheri Bustos



Peter Welch



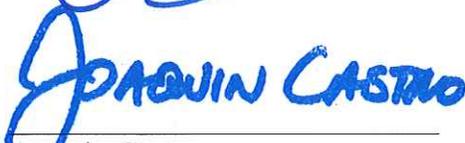
Lloyd Doggett



Jackie Speier



Rick Crawford



Joaquin Castro



Brad Sherman



Jason Smith

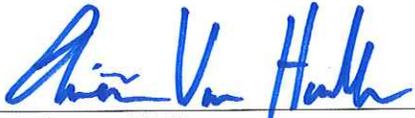


Bill Foster

FY2016 CHGME


Brendan F. Boyle


Scott Rigell


Chris Van Hollen


Robert J. Dold