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April 4, 2018

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our clinical partners – including more than 270,000 affiliated physicians, 2 million nurses and other caregivers – and the 43,000 health care leaders who belong to our professional membership groups, the American Hospital Association (AHA) wishes to express support for the Children’s Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2018 (S. 2597), which would reauthorize the Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program for an additional five years and fund the program annually at \$330 million.

Congress created the CHGME program in 1999 to support graduate medical education programs at children’s hospitals that train resident physicians, as well as enhance research capabilities and care for poor and medically underserved children in rural and inner-city areas. The program provides funding to 58 independent children’s hospitals in more than 30 states to train primary care pediatricians. Children’s hospitals treat very few Medicare patients; therefore, they do not receive Medicare funding to support medical training of residents. The CHGME program helps to offset this inequity. CHGME helps independent children’s hospitals train over 45 percent of general pediatricians, 57 percent of pediatric specialists and the majority of pediatric researchers.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Thomas P. Nickels
Executive Vice President

