

PUBLIC POLICY COUNCIL

Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education FY 2010

Background

The Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program has been a vital investment in the nation's nearly 60 independent children's teaching hospitals. Children's hospitals play a significant role in children's health. They provide almost half of the hospital care for children with serious illnesses and conditions such as heart defects, serious burns, and cancer. Children's hospitals are essential to pediatric trauma care, critical care, and our response system for public health emergencies affecting children. CHGME has been crucial in strengthening and sustaining all of these programs.

Children's hospitals make up 1% of all hospitals and train 35% of all pediatricians, half of all pediatric subspecialists, and the large majority of the nation's pediatric research scientists. CHGME was created through bipartisan legislation to provide children's hospitals an equal funding level that other teaching hospitals receive through Medicare. That level has not yet been reached as CHGME currently provides about 80% of the level of GME support that Medicare provides to adult hospitals. In the past several years, CHGME recipient hospitals have accounted for 76% of the increase in the number of all pediatric residents being trained.

Funding

CHGME was unanimously reauthorized in 2006 with annual authorization of appropriation level set at \$330 million. The bipartisan supported program was appropriated \$310 million in the current fiscal year (FY 2009).

CHGME must remain strong to continue the essential part children's hospitals play in providing care to children, training of pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists and pediatric research.

ACTION NEEDED FROM PEDIATRICIANS

Urge your Senators and Representative to support funding for CHGME and to provide the full authorization level of \$330 million for FY 2010. You can contact your members of congress by going to www.senate.gov and www.house.gov.

For more information, please contact the Public Policy Council legislative staff: Becky Fowler (bfowler@aap.org) – 800/336-5475.