May 30, 2014

Mary K. Wakefield, PhD, RN
Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Wakefield:

Our organizations are writing in regards to the Administration’s FY 2015 budget proposal concerning HRSA’s support of Graduate Medical Education (GME). The President’s FY 2015 budget proposes to eliminate Children’s Hospital GME (CH-GME) and move it into a larger Targeted Support GME initiative (TS-GME).\(^1\) The proposal would also move the current Teaching Health Centers GME (THC-GME) program, created under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), into the TS-GME program, creating a $530 million program. Pediatric and general dental residencies are funded under CH-GME and are also a part of the THC-GME program.

We are concerned that combining CH-GME and THC-GME into the TS-GME program would result in funding only residencies for physicians (family medicine, general internal medicine, general pediatrics and combined internal medicine and pediatrics). There is no mention of dental residencies in the Administration’s proposal. As you know, pediatric and general dentists will be the primary workforce serving children receiving pediatric dental insurance coverage for the first time under the ACA. Hence, it is disturbing that HRSA proposes to create a new GME program at the expense of existing pediatric and general dental residencies.

We hope that the Administration’s proposal was an oversight and not an intention to reduce dental residencies. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this matter with you and your staff as soon as possible. Please contact either Scott Litch at (312) 337-2169 or Mary Dietrich at (202) 789-5178.

Academy of General Dentistry
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Periodontology
American Association of Endodontists
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Women Dentists
American Association of Orthodontists
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
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American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists
Hispanic Dental Association
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