

June 9, 2022

The Honorable Kevin Cramer
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cramer,

On behalf of Vizient, Inc. and the healthcare provider members we serve, I am writing to offer our support for the Travel Nursing Agency Transparency Study Act.

[Vizient, Inc.](#) is the nation's largest healthcare performance improvement company. We provide solutions and services that improve the delivery of high-value care by aligning cost, quality and market performance for more than half of the nation's healthcare providers. Vizient provides expertise, analytics, advisory services, and a contract portfolio representing more than \$130 billion in annual member purchasing volume, to improve patient outcomes and lower costs.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, hospitals experienced significant challenges in maintaining staffing levels to manage surging patient volumes and were forced to rely heavily on travel nurse staffing agencies. Contract nurses have always been an important option for hospitals to address fluctuating patient volumes. However, excessive pricing and other practices utilized by some agencies during the pandemic have raised questions about how sustainable the reliance on such agencies is for the healthcare system - particularly in rural and underserved communities where workforce shortages are even more severe and persistent.

Your legislation would require the Comptroller General to study travel nurse agency business practices during the COVID-19 pandemic, including potential price gouging, excessive profits, and the difference between what nurses were paid compared with what agencies charged. In addition, the study will examine the impact of travel nursing agencies on rural healthcare and workforce shortages and what role private equity firms play in the industry, and assess the impact of various state laws to identify approaches to provide greater transparency.

We are pleased to offer our support for your legislation because it would help to gain critical insights into unfortunate practices employed during the COVID-19 pandemic and identify solutions to ensure staffing agencies remain a dependable partner for hospitals and healthcare providers in the future.

Thank you for your leadership on this important legislation. Please contact me at shoshana.krilow@vizientinc.com or (202) 354-2607 if you have any questions or if there is any way we can be of assistance in getting this important legislation signed into law.

Sincerely,



Shoshana Krilow
Senior Vice President, Public Policy & Government Relations