

Aug. 3, 2022

The Honorable Greg Murphy, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
313 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
1716 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Murphy and Miller-Meeks,

On behalf of Vizient, Inc., and the health care provider members we serve, I am pleased to offer our endorsement for H.R 8576, the Travel Nursing Agency Transparency Study Act.

[Vizient, Inc.](#) is the nation's largest health care 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 health care 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.

Over the last several years, hospitals have experienced critical challenges in maintaining staffing levels to manage surging patient volumes and were forced to rely more heavily on nurse staffing agencies. While the market has stabilized to some degree, real staffing challenges persist for many hospitals. The use of contract or travel nurses has always been an important option for hospitals to safely care for fluctuating patient volumes, but excessive pricing and other practices utilized by some nurse staffing agencies during the pandemic have become untenable for hospitals in the long-term. In rural areas, in particular, where workforce shortages have been even more severe and persistent, relying on these agencies is unsustainable.

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 nurse agencies on rural healthcare and workforce shortages, what impact private equity acquisitions have had on 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 practices employed by travel nurse agencies during the COVID-19 pandemic and identify solutions to ensure staffing agencies remain a dependable partner for hospitals and health care providers in the future.

Thank you for your leadership on this important legislation. Please contact me at shoshana.krillow@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