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May 30, 2023

The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks
U.S. House of Representatives
1034 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nanette Barragán
U.S. House of Representatives
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

The Honorable Ann Kuster
U.S. House of Representatives
2201 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Miller-Meeks, Murphy, Barragán and Kuster,

On behalf of Vizient, Inc., and the health care provider members we serve, I am pleased to offer our endorsement for H.R. 1790, the Biologics Competition Act of 2023. Your important, bipartisan legislation would ensure that biosimilar medications remain accessible for patients across the country.

Vizient is the nation's largest healthcare performance improvement company. Vizient provides solutions and services that improve the delivery of high-value care by aligning cost, quality, and market performance for more than 60% of the nation's acute care providers, which includes 97% of the nation's academic medical centers and more than 25% of ambulatory providers. Vizient provides expertise, analytics, and advisory services, as well as a contract portfolio that represents more than $130 billion in annual purchasing volume, to improve patient outcomes and lower costs. Headquartered in Irving, Texas, Vizient has offices throughout the United States.

The approval of interchangeable biological products holds significant potential to promote competition and reduce costs for patients. However, despite the growing number of biosimilar products entering the market and seeking to be designated as interchangeable, confusion persists among clinicians and payers as to the substitution of interchangeable biosimilars with originator biologics. Your legislation offers concrete solutions to minimize obstacles to the substitution of interchangeable biological products. Requiring a study to determine whether substitution of interchangeable biological products is being impeded by the difference between the system used to determine biologic product interchangeability and the separate system used to assign therapeutic equivalence for drugs would provide Congress with insight into the current barriers to interchangeable substitution and help identify potential policy solutions.

Following this report, HHS would then be directed to update the "purple book" to implement changes the Secretary deems necessary to harmonize the approach for communicating the substitutability of interchangeable biological products with the approach for communicating therapeutic equivalence ratings assigned to drugs. This new process would allow for increased adoption of interchangeable biologics and increase competition to lower drug prices for patients.

Thank you for your leadership in introducing this bill. Please do not hesitate to contact me at shoshana.krilow@vizientinc.com or 202-354-2607 if you have any questions about Vizient or if there is any way we can be of assistance in advancing your important legislation

Sincerely,

Shoshana Krilow
Senior Vice President, Public Policy & Government Relations