

April 11, 2023

The Honorable Mark Warner
U.S. Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
U.S. Senate
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Warner and Blackburn,

On behalf of Vizient, Inc., I am pleased to offer our endorsement of S. 803, the Save Rural Hospitals Act. This important legislation would provide more adequate reimbursement to better support hospitals, including those in rural locations.

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

Hospitals across the country, particularly those in rural areas, are facing significant financial challenges resulting from high inflation and increased workforce costs. These challenges have the potential to further exacerbate the already tenuous financial situation many rural hospitals are experiencing and negatively impact their ability to provide patients and communities critical access to high quality health care services. Vizient is grateful for the bipartisan recognition in Congress of the need to support healthcare providers, and applauds the introduction of this legislation.

Your bipartisan legislation would establish a national minimum of 0.85 for the Medicare Area Wage Index, which is used to adjust a hospital's overall payment from the Medicare program on the basis of geographic differences in labor costs. This change would help to ensure rural hospitals are reimbursed more appropriately and can continue to provide needed care.

We are pleased to support this legislation and encourage its swift passage. Please do not hesitate to contact me at shoshana.krillow@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 Krillow
Senior Vice President, Public Policy & Government Relations