

August 16, 2024

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn  
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján  
498 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Wyden, Blackburn, and Luján,

On behalf of Vizient, Inc., I am pleased to offer our endorsement for the *Health Workforce Innovation Act* (S.4957). Your important, bipartisan legislation would encourage the development of community-driven approaches for the education and training of America's future healthcare professionals.

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 \$140 billion in annual purchasing volume, to improve patient outcomes and lower costs. Headquartered in Irving, Texas, Vizient has offices throughout the United States.

Workforce shortages continue to plague the healthcare industry, with providers continually looking for innovative ways to ensure they have an adequate workforce to meet the growing needs of their communities. This includes hiring and retaining allied health professionals, such as medical assistants, pharmacy technicians and emergency medical personnel, who can assist in delivering timely and effective care. Your legislation will establish a Health Care Workforce Innovation Program to provide funding for community health centers and rural health clinics to educate and train a wide range of allied health professionals through partnerships with high schools, community colleges, and other entities, taking a meaningful step in addressing workforce challenges. In addition, this bill prioritizes funding for models that train individuals from underserved and disadvantaged communities, as this funding would provide immediate relief for the country's most vulnerable providers. These provisions, along with several others in the legislation, make its passage a priority.

By augmenting their workforce, hospitals and other providers can enhance their capacity and continue to deliver high-quality, timely and comprehensive care to patients. The need for additional health professionals goes beyond just meeting the population's healthcare needs, as it also offers an opportunity to alleviate administrative burden on providers, leading to higher quality care and better long-term health outcomes. We are proud to offer our support for this important legislation and look forward to working with Congress to continue addressing healthcare workforce shortages.

Thank you for your leadership in introducing this bill. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [shoshana.krillow@vizientinc.com](mailto: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