

# Supply Chain Assurance Advocacy

Vizient helps mitigate complex healthcare supply chain challenges through advocacy and collaboration with industry and government stakeholders

## Supply Chain Assurance Advocacy Priorities

To help strengthen the supply chain and mitigate future disruptions, Vizient continues to **advocate** for hospitals and other healthcare providers by providing expert insights and education to policymakers on Capitol Hill and in the Administration:



**“Vizient believes that supply assurance begins with solving for issues more upstream in the supply chain to ensure transparency, data and redundancy make that last mile delivery smooth and reliable.”**

Margaret Steele, Vizient Senior Vice President, Medical/Surgical GPO Services & Delivery

Learn more about Vizient's **Supply Assurance Services program**.

## Vizient Advocacy

As the nation’s largest healthcare performance improvement company, Vizient has long worked towards ensuring a resilient supply chain. With the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Vizient pursued a relentless advocacy agenda over the last 27 months to amplify the voice of our members to our nation’s policymakers.

## Key Advocacy Efforts

In tandem with our legislative and regulatory activities, Vizient provided **expertise and insights** early in the pandemic to promote supply resiliency and recovery, including the following key efforts:

- With our unique position in the healthcare supply chain, **Vizient President and CEO Byron Jobe met with the White House Coronavirus Task Force** to share the perspectives of manufacturers, distributors and providers on the current challenges and opportunities to improve supply chain resiliency. Following the meeting, Vizient recommended **strategies** to the Administration to help mitigate supply disruption and shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) and prescription drugs.
- Byron Jobe was again invited to the White House to help launch the Dynamic Ventilator Reserve, a public-private effort to help more efficiently distribute needed ventilators to critical areas.
- Vizient **testified** before the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance and offered **insights** into the issue of counterfeit PPE as well as suggestions to improve the resiliency of the supply chain.
- Since the onset of the pandemic, Vizient has engaged with myriad Federal Agencies and other stakeholders to help achieve a common goal – ensuring the availability of critical medical products. We quickly helped establish a cross-sector collaboration of government and private sector stakeholders and met regularly to share information and provide insights. Vizient’s Washington, D.C., office of public policy and government relations, along with our expert colleagues from across the company, continue to meet regularly with FEMA, ASPR, HHS, FDA, CDC, the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and others to elevate the voice of our members and call attention to real-time supply chain challenges and solutions.

## Other Critical Engagement

Vizient experts regularly share their expertise with D.C.-based stakeholders to raise awareness for strategies that will help build a more robust and resilient supply chain including a **Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC) briefing on advancing disaster preparedness and response**, the **All Hazards Consortium’s (AHC) 2022 National Resilience Exchange Summit** and the **Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy’s Drug Supply Chain Webinar**.

Policymakers on Capitol Hill and the Administration continue to look for solutions to strengthen our nation's healthcare supply chain. Vizient has supported many of these ongoing efforts:

## Legislative Action

- Endorsed the [Safe Drugs Act](#), which would enhance supply chain security and patient safety by providing FDA with mandatory recall authority for drugs
- Submitted multiple policy requests to Congress on COVID-19 relief including [recommendations](#) that highlight the need for additional supply chain transparency, supply chain strength and efficiency and SNS transparency
- Endorsed the [Integrity, Notification, Fairness in Online Retail Marketplaces \(INFORM\) Consumers Act](#) that would put safeguards in place to discourage the sale of counterfeit medical supplies
- Endorsed the [Drug Shortages Shelf Life Extension Act](#) that would require the FDA to update guidance so that an extended expiration date can be included on a drug's label to help prevent or mitigate shortages
- Shared feedback with the Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA) on [comments](#) to the U.S. Senate Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions (HELP) committee regarding the supply chain provisions in the [Prepare for and Respond to Existing Viruses, Emerging New Threats and \(PREVENT\) Pandemics Act](#) to address future pandemics and emergency preparedness
- Provided comments and [feedback](#) on the FDA's draft agreements for the reauthorization of the [Medical Device User Fee Amendments \(MDUFA\)](#) and the [Prescription Drug User Fee Amendments \(PDUFA\)](#) that urged Congress to advance policies that provide greater transparency and competition for prescription drugs and medical devices to support a more resilient healthcare supply chain

## Regulatory Activity

- Provided [recommendations](#) on the FDA's Essential Medicines list, including information about the source (including manufacturing location) of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API)
- Offered [considerations](#) to the FDA on the reauthorization of PDUFA and the Generic Drug User Fee Act (GDUFA), including recommendations to increase transparency in the supply chain and minimize supply chain disruptions as long-used products gain FDA approval
- [Requested](#) that the FDA consider patient safety and supply chain security risks of white bagging and take appropriate enforcement action to protect patients
- Submitted [comments](#) on the FDA's [proposed rule](#) on the importation of prescription drugs to highlight the need to maintain current drug shortage mitigation strategies and supply chain management
- Shared [insights](#) with the Department of Commerce on policies to strengthen the U.S. public health industrial base that highlighted the importance of increasing transparency of the manufacturing supply chain
- Urged the U.S. Trade Representative on separate occasions to extend the tariff exclusions set to expire at the end of [Dec. 2020](#) and [Sept. 2021](#) related to health care products essential to the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Applauded the Administration for establishing the Supply Chain Disruptions Taskforce and [encouraged](#) the Department of Transportation Port Envoy to take action on policies that would alleviate shipping and transportation challenges that have slowed access to products

To learn more, please contact the Vizient Public Policy and Government Relations team at (202) 354-2600 or [VizientGR@vizientinc.com](mailto:VizientGR@vizientinc.com).

As the nation's largest member-driven healthcare performance improvement company, Vizient provides solutions and services that empower healthcare providers to deliver high-value care by aligning cost, quality and market performance. With analytics, advisory services and a robust sourcing portfolio, we help members improve patient outcomes and lower costs.