

May 8, 2023

The Honorable Robert Menendez
U.S. Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
U.S. Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
U.S. Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Menendez, Boozman, Schumer and Collins,

On behalf of Vizient, Inc., I am pleased to offer our endorsement for S.1302, the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act. This bipartisan legislation would make important long-term investments to support the future development of a highly skilled healthcare workforce.

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.

Healthcare providers are facing significant workforce challenges, including shortages of physicians, nurses, and other allied health professionals. According to projections from the Association of American Medical Colleges, the United States is facing a physician workforce shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2034. The shortages are presenting growing challenges for providers and limiting access to care for patients. Vizient is grateful that Congress has been aware of the difficult situation, and in recent years has voted to provide additional resources to establish 1,200 new Medicare-supported Graduate Medical Education (GME) slots through legislation passed in 2021 and 2022. Those investments will pay long-term dividends in training more physicians for the next generation, but additional support is still needed.

Your bipartisan legislation would increase the number of Medicare-supported GME medical resident training positions by 14,000 over seven years, and allocates those slots to teaching hospitals training over their GME cap, hospitals in rural areas, states with new medical schools, and health professional shortage areas. Additionally, the bill would require the Comptroller General to examine clinical workforce issues and offer strategies to increase the diversity of the health professional workforce.

Thank you for your leadership in reintroducing this bill. 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