

January 26, 2022

The Honorable Ben Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cardin and Collins,

I am writing today to offer [Vizient's](#) support for the Drug Shortages Shelf Life Extension Act (S.3493). Your bipartisan legislation would require the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to share guidance regarding the inclusion of a drug product's longest feasible expiration date in its label. Such information would help mitigate shortages and better ensures that information about a product's expiration date is readily available to providers.

Vizient, Inc. is the nation's largest health care 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 50% of the nation's acute care providers, which includes 95% of the nation's academic medical centers, and more than 20% of ambulatory providers. Vizient provides expertise, analytics, and advisory services, as well as a contract portfolio that represents more than \$100 billion in annual purchasing volume, to improve patient outcomes and lower costs. Headquartered in Irving, Texas, Vizient has offices throughout the United States.

The Drug Shortages Shelf Life Extension Act would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide guidance with new recommendations for manufacturers regarding stability testing and labeling of shelf life expiration dates. Additional information regarding the longest feasible expiration date would streamline inventory management and help prevent drug shortages. Additionally, the legislation would require the FDA to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) and the House Energy and Commerce Committee that includes information on labeling changes requested of manufacturers by the agency. The information collected, such as the rationale for the request, whether the drug was listed on the drug shortage list, whether the request was made during a public health emergency, and whether the manufacturer made the change by the requested date would help shed light on the circumstances in which expiration date-related labeling changes may be needed and help identify potential barriers to such changes.

Vizient is proud to offer our support for your important legislation. The Drug Shortages Shelf Life Extension Act would direct FDA to update guidance to safely extend the shelf life of essential drugs, amid certain drug shortages, allowing providers to continue administering life-saving medication to the patients they serve.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership on this issue. 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 this bill.

Sincerely,



Shoshana Krilow
Senior Vice President, Public Policy & Government Relations