

February 13, 2023

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Blumenthal and Cornyn,

On behalf of Vizient, Inc., I am pleased to again offer our endorsement for the *Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act* (S.150). Your important, bipartisan legislation would prohibit product hopping by drug manufacturers, authorize the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to enforce this prohibition, and impose limits on patent litigation involving biological products with the goal of preventing abuse of the patent system to help lower drug costs.

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.

Marketplace competition is critical to reducing drug costs for providers and patients. This bill strikes an appropriate balance to improve competition while supporting innovation by curbing inappropriate practices that extend prescription drug exclusivity without meaningful improvements to the product. Your important, bipartisan legislation would provide the FTC with new tools to stop "product hopping" tactics and the excessive use of overlapping patents – or "patent thickets" – to block or delay entry of generic or biosimilar competitor drugs into the marketplace.

Vizient strongly supports this legislation, which will help deter anti-competitive behaviors and slow the rise of prescription drug costs. We applaud this bill as a practical solution to curb drug costs and look forward to working with you as it moves outside of the Judiciary Committee through the full Senate.

We appreciate your ongoing leadership in working to ensure fair competition to lower prescription drug prices for patients. 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 your important legislation.

Sincerely,



Shoshana Krilow
Senior Vice President, Public Policy & Government Relations