



Dec. 1, 2016

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Members of the U.S. Senate:

I am writing on behalf of Vizient, Inc. to offer our support for the passage of the revised 21st Century Cures Act. This legislation represents meaningful bipartisan work that will improve patient care and invest in and improve systems to catalyze biomedical innovations. We applaud the legislation and support passage of the bill.

Vizient is the nation's largest health care performance improvement company. We serve a diverse membership that includes academic medical centers, pediatric facilities, community hospitals, integrated healthcare delivery networks and non-acute health care providers. Our headquarters are in Irving, Texas, with locations in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and other cities across the country.

On behalf of our members, we are pleased to see that legislation includes a number of provisions important for hospitals across the country. Specifically, Vizient supports key provisions in the bill, including:

- Modifications to the hospital readmissions reduction program to better account for socioeconomic status and ensure that hospitals do not face arbitrary penalties as a result of serving complex, chronically ill and underprivileged patients and communities;
- Revisions to the 2015 Bipartisan Budget Act to allow for impacted under-construction off-campus hospital outpatient departments (HOPDs) to be reimbursed under the expected hospital outpatient payment system. Facilities that were under development from Nov. 2, 2015 to Dec. 31, 2016 or 60 days after enactment, would be grandfathered in under the OPSS system – which will help to ensure that such facilities will be able to continue to serve their communities;
- Extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program for five years;
- One-year delay in the implementation of the long-term care hospital “25% rule”;
- Prohibition of HHS implementing direct-supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic care for critical access hospitals and certain small rural hospitals; and
- Bipartisan reforms to improve the delivery of mental health care services for patients.

Vizient also strongly supports the investment the legislation makes in research at the National Institutes of Health, the Precision Medicine Initiative, and efforts to combat opioid abuse. These investments have the potential to markedly enhance health care delivery, and improve the lives of patients.



We thank you for your commitment to improving patient care and strongly endorse passage of the 21st Century Cures bill.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at steve.rixen@vizientinc.com or 202-354-2611 if you have any questions about Vizient or if there is any way we can be of assistance in supporting this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Rixen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Rixen
Government Relations Director
Vizient Inc.