

March 14, 2019

Senator Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Tim Kaine
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Collins and Senator Kaine:

I am writing on behalf of Vizient, Inc. to offer our support for the Biologic Patent Transparency Act of 2019. We are pleased to endorse your bipartisan legislation, which will help to promote increased adoption of biosimilar treatments to compete with high-cost biologic medicines.

Vizient is the nation's largest health care performance improvement company. Our mission is to strengthen our members' delivery of high-value care by aligning cost, quality and market performance. Vizient is member-driven and member-minded, working tirelessly to amplify each organization's impact by optimizing every interaction along the continuum of care. Vizient serves a diverse membership including academic medical centers, pediatric facilities, community hospitals, integrated health delivery networks and non-acute health care providers.

Vizient has strongly supported and continues to encourage the adoption and use of biosimilars. We believe wholeheartedly that biosimilar medicines are an essential mechanism to enable our members to realize reduced costs while preserving the use of safe and effective biologics. Still, barriers to a robust and accessible supply of biosimilars remain in place, including those created by the excessive use of patents or "patent thickets" to delay the entry of competition.

We strongly support the Biologic Patent Transparency Act and its deliberate and concrete actions to increase transparency around patent information of biologics approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Making such information more easily accessible and understandable not only shines a light on the excessive use of patents to delay competition, but also facilitates greater comprehension of biologic manufacturing, approval, and marketing – all of which would support wider adoption of less costly biosimilars for prescribing physicians and other clinicians.

Thank you again for your leadership in introducing this legislation. 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 legislation.

Sincerely,



Shoshana Krilow
Vice President, Public Policy and Government Relations
Vizient, Inc.