

March 14, 2019

The Honorable Peter Welch
2187 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David McKinley
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Welch and Representative McKinley:

I am writing on behalf of Vizient, Inc. to offer our support for the Fair Access for Safe and Timely (FAST) Generics Act of 2019. We are pleased to again endorse your bipartisan legislation which may help slow increasing drug costs for patients and hospitals by increasing the availability of generic drug alternatives and promoting competition.

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.

Your bill will take steps to prevent drug manufactures from abusing the Food and Drug Administration's Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS) process to delay or prevent generic competition from entering the marketplace. These activities include name-brand drug manufacturers utilizing loopholes in the REMS process to restrict access to their product such that the timely development of meaningful generic drugs or biosimilars are deterred or delayed. By closing loopholes that have allowed for these anti-competitive activities, your legislation will bring needed reforms to improve competition and lower drug prices. At a time when patients and hospitals see steadily increasing prescription drug costs, your legislation will take important steps to improve FDA processes and promote increased generic competition in the prescription drug marketplace.

We applaud your leadership on this needed legislation and thank you for your continued commitment to enhancing competition and reducing prices of prescription drugs. We strongly support passage of the bill.

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.