

May 10, 2019

Senator John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Richard Blumenthal
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn and Senator Blumenthal:

I am writing on behalf of Vizient, Inc. to offer our support for the Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act of 2019. We are pleased to endorse your bipartisan legislation which will help to prohibit anticompetitive behaviors by pharmaceutical manufacturers. We believe that this bill strikes the appropriate balance of improving competition – which is a critical step in controlling the trajectory of drug costs, and ultimately lowering prices for patients – without stifling innovation.

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.

This legislation provides the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) with important tools to stop the excessive use of patents – or “patent thicket” and “product hopping” tactics – used by drug manufacturers to block or delay entry of generic or biosimilar competitor drugs into the marketplace. Vizient strongly supports this important legislation, which will help stop anti-competitive behaviors and increase access to generic and biosimilar medicines. At a time when rising drug costs are negatively impacting patients and putting an increasing strain on our members' bottom lines, we applaud this bill as a practical solution to curb rising drug costs. Vizient looks forward to working with you to ensure this important, bipartisan legislation is enacted into law.

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.