

May 30, 2019

The Honorable Derek Kilmer
1410 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Elise Stefanik
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Kilmer and Stefanik:

I am writing on behalf of Vizient, Inc. to offer our support for the Protecting Local Access to Care for Everyone (PLACE) Act (H.R. 2552). We are pleased to endorse your bipartisan legislation which will help protect hospital-level outpatient care in all communities. This care is essential to all patients, but especially those in areas where access to care is limited.

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.

The PLACE Act would reverse the harmful Medicare hospital payment policies that will have a substantial and devastating impact on access to care for the most vulnerable and complex patients – especially seniors. Communities with already limited sources of health care will bear the brunt of these payment cuts, as well as the many patients that rely on the invaluable services provided by our members. We applaud this essential legislation, as it will reverse the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) misconstrued policies, and restore the law as Congress intended.

Our members treat patients in the settings that best meet their clinical needs. Hospital outpatient departments and provider-based departments (PBDs) associated with hospitals often care for seniors and patients with greater needs – namely, patients who have chronic, complex medical conditions, often with comorbidities, and require specialized care. 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.