

March 25, 2021

Senator Mark Warner
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Roy Blunt
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warner and Senator Blunt:

On behalf of Vizient, Inc., I am pleased to offer our endorsement and support for the Strengthening Rural Health Clinics Act. Your bipartisan legislation would take a vitally important step to correct an unintentional legislative drafting error and provide greater reimbursement clarity for Rural Health Clinics (RHCs).

Vizient, Inc. is the nation's largest health care performance improvement company. Vizient provides solutions and services that improve the delivery of high-value care by aligning cost, quality and market performance for more than 50% of the nation's acute care providers, which includes 95% of the nation's academic medical centers, and more than 20% of ambulatory providers. Vizient also serves a diverse membership of hospitals and other non-acute health care service providers in rural America, including independent community hospitals, critical access hospitals, rural health clinics and other non-acute providers. Vizient provides expertise, analytics, and advisory services, as well as a contract portfolio that represents more than \$100 billion in annual purchasing volume, to improve patient outcomes and lower costs. Headquartered in Irving, Texas, Vizient has offices throughout the United States.

Rural Health Clinics offer a key point to access primary care and other services for many Americans in rural areas. Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, Congress sought to update the payment system for RHCs by providing an updated reimbursement approach for new RHCs. While well-intentioned, due to a drafting error, the provision would have unintentionally subjected many recently established RHCs, or RHCs that were under development, to a significant payment reduction. While Vizient maintains concerns about the broad reimbursement modifications to new provider-based RHCs, your legislation takes a vital step to correct the technical error that would have subjected many RHCs to severe payment reductions under current law.

We are pleased to support this legislation and encourage its swift passage. 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 your important legislation.

Sincerely,



Shoshana Krilow
Senior Vice President, Public Policy & Government Relations