

April 29, 2021

Senator Maggie Hassan
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Senator Hassan and Senator Collins:

I am writing on behalf of Vizient, Inc. to offer our support for the Opioid Workforce Act of 2021. This important bipartisan legislation will provide a needed investment in medical education and training for the next generation of physicians combatting our nation's opioid abuse crisis.

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 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.

Vizient and our member hospitals have greatly appreciated the support from Congress thus far in providing 1,000 new Medicare-supported Graduate Medical Education (GME) positions in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 – the first increase in nearly 25 years. While that was an important investment, continued support is needed to address the unique challenges of responding to the opioid crisis. Your bill would provide an additional 1,000 Medicare-supported graduate medical education slots for teaching hospitals that have, or are in the process of establishing, residency programs in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry or pain medicine. Addressing our nation's looming shortage of medical professionals is a pressing crisis, which is compounded by the unique challenges of finding clinical options to mitigate the effects of the opioid crisis. Your bipartisan legislation offers a meaningful and necessary investment in supporting those clinical needs.

Vizient is pleased to strongly support your legislation and urges its quick adoption. 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 supporting this legislation.

Sincerely,



Shoshana Krilow
Senior Vice President, Public Policy & Government Relations