

May 19, 2021

The Honorable Brian Schatz
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Schatz and Wicker:

I am writing today to offer [Vizient's](#) support for the Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act of 2021. Your bipartisan legislation will continue to support the widespread adoption and utilization of telehealth services, which has proven to be a safe and effective care delivery alternative that has allowed patients to maintain access to essential care throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

The COVID-19 pandemic has tested patients, physicians, hospitals and other providers in ways that few could imagine. The U.S. health care system rose to the challenge and deployed new and innovative approaches to ensure that their patients would maintain access to needed health care services. Much of that has been enabled by new flexibilities offered by Congress and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to ease restrictions on telehealth usage.

Despite the substantial steps to expand telehealth services that hospitals have taken, uncertainty remains. The sustainability of many of those programs could be jeopardized if Congress fails to extend many of the flexibilities granted throughout the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). Your bipartisan legislation would extend key flexibilities by correcting outdated statutes that restrict telehealth access based on limited geographic areas and expanding the number of sites that can be considered as originating sites, including individuals' homes. Your bill would also clarify that HHS would have the flexibility to expand access and quickly increase the services available to be offered through telehealth for future PHEs. These provisions and many more in the CONNECT for Health Act make its passage a priority.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership on telehealth issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me at shoshana.krillow@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 Krillow
Senior Vice President, Public Policy & Government Relations