

June 9, 2022

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
272 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
271 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester
1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Representatives Eshoo, Fitzpatrick and Blunt Rochester:

I am writing to offer [Vizient's](#) support for the Strengthen Kids' Mental Health Now Act of 2022 (H.R. 7236). Your bipartisan legislation would take important steps to address certain mental health challenges among children and young adults and would provide additional financial support to expand the delivery of youth emotional and behavioral healthcare services.

Vizient, Inc. is the nation's largest healthcare performance improvement company. We serve a diverse membership that includes academic medical centers, pediatric facilities, community hospitals, integrated healthcare delivery networks and non-acute healthcare 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 is proud to offer our support for your important legislation, which ensures that supporting youth mental health remains a high priority. Your bill would provide payment parity for pediatric behavioral health services by raising the Medicaid reimbursement to match Medicare levels for similar services. This direct, targeted support to practitioners would remove a major obstacle and expand access to mental healthcare services. In addition to financial support, this legislation would also attempt to address certain patient access issues by expanding the use of telehealth in youth behavioral care and increase capacity for pediatric crisis care. The legislation directs the Department of Health and Human Services to issue guidance to states on how to expand pediatric mental, emotional and behavioral health services under state Medicaid plans, including best practices for improving access. The legislation also requires the Secretary to provide guidance on best practices to enhance to the utilization of telehealth for youth behavioral health services.

The additional access to behavioral health services provided under your bill, particularly through growing the pediatric mental health workforce and investing in the pediatric mental health infrastructure, will lead to better health outcomes and increased patient flexibility. We are pleased to offer our support for this important legislation.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership on this issue. 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 this bill.

Sincerely,



Shoshana Krillow
Senior Vice President, Public Policy & Government Relations