



Our Mission: To drive efforts to cure psoriatic disease and improve the lives of those affected.

February 26th, 2019

The Honorable Andrea Salinas
Chair, House Committee on Health Care
900 Court St NE
Salem Oregon, 97301

RE: Support HB 2799- Requires carrier to offer, in at least 25 percent of carrier's health benefit plans at each coverage level, flat dollar copayments that meet specified criteria for prescription drug coverage.

Chair Salinas and members of the House Committee on Health Care,

The National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) is a non-profit organization with a mission to drive efforts to cure psoriatic disease and improve the lives of those affected. The NPF is the leading patient advocacy group for more than 8.3 million Americans and the roughly 105,731 Oregon residents living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. I write to you today to express our support for HB 2799 which seeks to create consumer protections and predictable out-of-pocket costs for the treatment our patients need.

Advancements in medicine have produced breakthrough treatments for psoriatic disease. But these treatments can be out of reach for many patients due to high out-of-pocket costs. People with psoriasis have significantly higher healthcare resource utilization and costs than the general population. High out-of-pocket costs significantly impacts a patient's access to care. A 2017 study of data collected from NPF surveys found that although roughly 89% of patients with psoriasis or psoriatic arthritis were covered by insurance, over half spend more than \$2,400 per year in out-of-pocket costs for their disease.

When facing high out-of-pocket costs, patients do not use their medications appropriately; skipping doses in order to save money or abandoning treatment altogether. According to several studies, prescription abandonment rates increase significantly when cost-sharing exceeds \$100.¹ Non-treatment and under treatment of psoriatic disease remains a significant problem as health benefit plan's cost sharing leave many treatments unaffordable. HB 2799 would help address these concerns by ensuring that 25% of individual and group plans offer a pre-deductible copay to the entire prescription drug benefit including each service area and metal tier. This copay-only benefit design must be reasonably graduated and proportionately related across all tiers of the plan's formulary.

People with substantial prescription drug needs – especially those living with chronic conditions such as psoriatic disease – must have access to prescription drug coverage and understand their out-of-pocket costs. NPF urges your support for the important consumer protections outlined in HB 2799. Oregonians deserve access to affordability and predictability in their plans.

We appreciate your attention on this important matter. If you have any questions, please reach out to Brittany Duffy-Goche with the National Psoriasis Foundation at bduffy-goche@psoriasis.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Beranek".

Randy Beranek
President & CEO

¹ Streeter, S.B., Schwartzberg, L., Husain, N., Johnsrud, M. (2011). Patient and Plan Characteristics Affecting Abandonment of Oral Oncolytic Prescriptions. J Oncol Pract. 2011 May; 7(3 Suppl): 46s–51s