



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

April 8th, 2019

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

RE: Support HB 2690- Relating to the cost of prescription drugs

Dear Chair Salinas and members of the committee,

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 2690, relating to prescription drug benefits, transparency, and cost sharing.

Non-treatment and under treatment of psoriatic disease remains a significant problem as health benefit plan's cost sharing leave many treatments unaffordable. A 2018 study of data collected from NPF surveys found that over 42% of patients spent more than \$100 per month toward cost-sharing obligations. 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

HB 2690 prohibits a health benefit plan or pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) from restricting a pharmacist or pharmacy from disclosing cheaper alternatives to individuals purchasing prescription drugs. A consumer would be informed of all available treatment options and their cost as well as alternative methods of purchasing the prescription drugs. With high out-of-pocket costs already impeding access to care, it is critical patients receive their treatments at a fair and reasonable price and are informed of all options.

With more cost sharing being shifted to the consumer we applaud the efforts to ensure any payment made for a prescription drug must be applied toward the deductible or out-of-pocket maximum. This will ensure patients are able to fully utilize their pharmacy benefits and get the lowest price for their drugs easing the financial burden many patients living with psoriatic disease face.

We appreciate your attention on this important matter. Should you have any questions regarding this issue please reach out to Brittany Duffy-Goche, State Government Relations Manager 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