



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

May 17th, 2019

The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St NE
Salem Oregon, 97301

RE: Support -4 amendment to HB 2185- Relating to pharmacy benefit managers.

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson 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 -4 amendment to HB 2185, relating to prescription drug benefit transparency and pharmacy benefit managers (PBM).

Non-treatment and under treatment of psoriatic disease remains a significant problem as health benefit plan's cost sharing leave many treatments unaffordable for patients. 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

NPF supports -4 amendment which requires a pharmacy benefit to apply contributions paid by the enrollee towards the out-of-pocket maximum helping ease the financial burden many patients face. With an increase cost sharing shifted to the consumer, we applaud efforts to ensure any payment made for a prescription drug must be applied toward the deductible or out-of-pocket maximum. This will assure patients fully utilize their pharmacy benefits and have access to the lowest price for their medications.

HB 2185 also includes a provision that will prohibit a health benefit plan or PBM from restricting a pharmacist or pharmacy from disclosing cheaper alternatives to individuals purchasing prescription drugs. A consumer will have access to information concerning 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, including having access to all treatment options and pricing information.

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