



**The National Psoriasis Foundation
Urges All Senators to Take Action in 2007 to
Support People with Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis by:**

- **Sponsoring or becoming an original co-sponsor of the Senate companion bill to H.R.1188, “The Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act of 2007”, introduced recently in the House by Rep. David Wu (D-Ore.-1st).** This important, first-ever comprehensive psoriasis authorizing legislation calls upon the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to expand their work with respect to psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Specifically, the bill:
 - (1) Expands psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis research conducted by the NIH;
 - (2) Strengthens patient data collection on psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis by establishing a national psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis patient registry through CDC;
 - (3) Establishes a federal summit on psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis to discuss current issues and efforts and explore opportunities in psoriasis research and care; and
 - (4) Calls for an Institute of Medicine study to evaluate and make recommendations on access to care for people with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

- **Providing at least \$30.8 billion to the NIH in FY2008 to allow a 6.7 percent increase for all of the institutes and centers that play an integral role in psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis research.** This level of investment will help to identify new, safe and effective treatments, genetics, triggers, co-morbidities, and psycho-social effects associated with these two conditions and move toward a cure. The NIH institutes and centers involved in psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis include:
 - The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS);
 - The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID);
 - The National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI);
 - The National Institute for Environmental Health Systems (NIEHS);
 - The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH);
 - The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM); and
 - The National Center for Research Resources (NCRR).

Psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis are genetic diseases of the immune system. They are chronic, inflammatory, painful, disfiguring, and life-altering diseases that require life-long sophisticated medical intervention and care and have no cure. By taking these two steps, senators will help to expand efforts to improve treatment and find a cure for psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and ensure that people with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis have access to the health care and therapies they need to live the highest quality of life possible.

The National Psoriasis Foundation is the nation’s leading patient-driven, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of as many as 7.5 million Americans with psoriasis and/or psoriatic arthritis. For more information about the National Psoriasis Foundation’s public policy priorities, please contact Sheila Rittenberg, Director of Advocacy (503.546-8365 or srittenberg@psoriasis.org). To learn more about psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, visit www.psoriasis.org.