March 8, 2018

Senator Paul Doyle, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Judiciary
Legislative Office Building, Room 2500
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Support SB 398 – An Act Concerning Penalties for Failure to Comply with Provisions Governing the Use of Step Therapy for Prescription Drugs

Dear Chairman Doyle:

The National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) is a non-profit, voluntary health agency dedicated to curing psoriatic disease and improving the lives of those affected. The Psoriasis Foundation is the leading patient advocacy group for the 8.3 million Americans and over 114,400 Connecticut residents living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

Step therapy, also known as ‘fail first’, is a health insurance mandate that is intended to control spending on prescription drugs. This tool requires patients to ‘fail first’, often multiple times, on certain medications before they are able to receive the treatment originally prescribed by their physician. All too often, this delays access to optimal therapy, while potentially exacerbating a patient’s condition.

NPF appreciates the many steps Connecticut has taken to enact patient protections around step therapy protocols. SB 398 will strengthen those protections by enacting a penalty for non-compliance. This law will ensure patients are not subjected to potentially harmful step therapy protocols and continue to receive treatments they need to effectively treat their disease.

When considering SB 398, we ask that the committee report this measure favorably.

Sincerely,

Randy Beranek
President and CEO

cc: Joint Committee on Judiciary Members