February 6, 2018

Senator Jeb Bradley, Chairman
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
State House, Room 302
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Support SB 481 (Soucy) – Establishing a committee to study the impact of pharmacy benefit managers

Dear Chairman Bradley:

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 living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. I write to you today on behalf of NPF and the over 42,000 New Hampshire residents living with psoriatic disease to express our support for SB 481, establishing a committee to study the impact of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs).

PBMs were created to control drug utilization and cost. While the PBMs have become effective at negotiating discounts and rebates from manufacturers, patients never see the benefit of these undisclosed “savings.” With little to no transparency around PBM operations, it is essential we pass SB 481 to study their impact on cost, administration, and distribution of prescription drugs. This will inform policy decisions that will help remove the financial barrier that impedes many patients.

The emergence of innovative new treatments has dramatically changed the landscape for our patient community. These advancements have improved the quality of life and life expectancy of those living with psoriasis or psoriatic arthritis. However, those who stand to benefit from these treatments cannot access them without first paying thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs.
As you consider SB 481 (Soucy) we ask that you take into consideration the critical need to identify harmful PBM policies, such as “clawbacks” and “gag clauses,” which requires an enrollee pay more for prescription drugs than the pharmacy may retain from the health plan. This reasonable approach of establishing a study committee on PBMs is the first step to ensuring New Hampshire policies allow patients to receive their treatments at a fair and reasonable price to both the subscriber and the plan.

We thank you for your attention and input during this legislative process and encourage you to pass SB 481.

Sincerely,

Randy Beranek
President and CEO

cc: Senate Health and Human Services Committee Members