June 15, 2018

Senator Paul A. Sarlo, Chair
Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee
New Jersey State Senate
496 Columbia Blvd., 1st Floor
Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075

RE: Support S 1865 (Weinberg) – Requires health insurers to limit patient cost-sharing and provide appeal process concerning certain prescription drug coverage.

Dear Chairman Sarlo:

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 roughly 315,201 New Jersey residents living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

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. This legislation will help remove the financial barrier that impedes many patients.

As you consider S 1865 (Weinberg) we ask that you take into consideration that increased out-of-pocket expenses for patients can lead to reduced adherence, resulting in more hospitalizations and higher health care costs. This legislation places appropriate and practical caps on out-of-pocket expenses that will change the lives of New Jersey residents living with psoriasis, while having a negligible influence on premiums and contributing to a long-term reduction of the impact a patient has on the health care system.

We thank you for your attention and input during this legislative process and encourage you to pass S 1865 out of the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Sincerely,

Randy Beranek
President and CEO

CC: Members of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee