March 12th, 2019

The Honorable Timothy Hawkes  
Chair, House Rules Committee  
350 North State, Suite 350  
PO Box 145030  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

RE: Support SB 264- Medical Treatment Authorization Amendments

Chair Hawkes and members of the House Rules 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 70,790 Utah residents living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. I write to you today to express our support for SB 264 as amended.

As a systemic disease associated with life-altering symptoms, the timely treatment of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis is of the utmost importance when managing long-term patient health. All too often delays in optimal therapy treatment exacerbates a patient’s condition. SB 264 would reduce delays in treatment by ensuring providers have access to requirements for insurance authorization and sufficient information to submit a completed request. This will help expedite the prior authorization process reducing administrative burdens for physicians, and ultimately, better serving patients.

Psoriatic disease is a complex and unique chronic illness, what works for one patient may have horrific side efforts or be ineffective for another. This is why when a patient and their provider find a treatment that works for them it is imperative that they remain stable on that plan. SB 264 would ensure if a patient has received an authorization for their treatment they would not be required to switch, try an alternative therapy, or be forced to discontinue treatment. For the psoriatic disease community this means higher treatment efficacy and a reduction in adverse reactions.

We encourage the committee to report support SB 264 and ensure patients have access to a transparent and expedited process.

Thank you for your attention on this important matter and supporting better access to care for patients. If you have any questions, please reach out to Brittany Duffy-Goche with the National Psoriasis Foundation at bduffy-goche@psoriasis.org.

Sincerely,

Randy Beranek  
President and CEO