



**NATIONAL  
PSORIASIS  
FOUNDATION®**

**Our Mission:** To drive efforts to cure psoriatic disease and improve the lives of those affected.

Chairwoman Vicki Schmidt  
Senate Health and Public Welfare Committee  
SW 8th & SW Van Buren  
Topeka, KS 66612

**RE: Support SB 304 – Prescription Drug Step Therapy**

Dear Chairwoman Schmidt:

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 the 101,745 Kansan 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.

As systemic diseases associated with significant comorbid conditions, the timely treatment of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis is of the utmost importance when managing long-term patient health. The Medical Board of the National Psoriasis Foundation recognizes the insurance companies’ need to keep costs down. However, the best interests of the patient must be the priority for both physicians and insurers alike.

The legislation before you ensures that step therapy is based on the most current clinical data and that it is available to the consumer in a transparent manner. Furthermore, it provides a timeline for response to the request that is based upon language agreed upon in other and states. Finally, it outlines clear and concise exceptions to the step therapy protocols based on medical necessity. This legislation, which is not a ban, strikes a fair balance between cost containment and health of the patient.

When considering SB 304 we ask that the committee report this measure favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Beranek'.

Randy Beranek  
President and CEO