August 7, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S 128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S 128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS and Education
Committee on Appropriations
S 128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS and Education
Committee on Appropriations
S 128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

As you continue your work in developing the Fiscal Year 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, I write on behalf of the National Psoriasis Foundation to reiterate our request to include $1 million to revive an important public health initiative focused on psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

Thanks to past leadership by Congress, several years ago the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed a landmark public health agenda on psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. This publication confirmed the substantial public health burden posed by psoriatic disease and made recommendations for additional public health research activities to better understand and address these challenges. NPF and others have worked in recent years to support and advance public health research focused on psoriatic disease, but unfortunately the lack of subsequent appropriations funding has prevented further work by the CDC, limiting further progress in this area.

The FY 20 request would revive funding for this initiative by supporting additional research to better understand the connections between psoriatic disease and other chronic health conditions and to provide resources to help persons with psoriatic disease better manage their
health. The request is informed by professional judgement guidance provided to NPF by the CDC and would make a meaningful impact in improving lives for the millions of Americans impacted by psoriatic disease.

NPF is pleased that 17 Senators supported the FY 20 request as part of their appropriations submission earlier in the year. We are also encouraged that the House Appropriations Committee established a new chronic disease fund to support public health education and awareness activities like this, and specifically included psoriasis as an example of a condition eligible for support under this program. We urge you to build upon these actions and include $1 million for the psoriatic disease public health initiative along with the following report language

**Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis**—The Committee recognizes the growing body of evidence linking psoriatic disease, which impacts more than eight million Americans, to other comorbidities such as cardiovascular disease, mental health and substance abuse challenges, kidney disease, and other conditions. The Committee commends the CDC for identifying opportunities for expanded research on psoriatic disease in its Public Health Agenda for Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis and provides $1 million in funding to support intramural and grant-based research on the comorbidities of psoriatic disease, including development of self-management education resources and to address other public health challenges identified in the CDC’s Public Health Agenda for Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis.

Thank you for giving your consideration to this request to benefit persons impacted by psoriatic disease. If you have any questions or should you or your staff wish to discuss this issue further, please feel free to contact Matthew Moran, Federal Government Relations & Health Policy Manager at mmoran@psoriasis.org.

Sincerely,

Patrick Stone
Vice President, Government Relations & Advocacy