February 18, 2020

Chairman Matt Williams  
Banking Commerce and Insurance Committee  
1445 K St.  
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: LB 949 & LB 970 Limit the amount an insured individual pays for prescription insulin drugs

Dear Chairman Williams and Members of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee,

The National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) is the leading patient advocacy group for more than 8.3 million Americans and the over 46,000 Nebraska residents living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. I write to you today to express our support for LB 949 and LB 970 to limit the amount an insured individual pays for prescription insulin drugs to no more than $100 per thirty-day supply of insulin. Patients with psoriatic disease are at a heightened risk to develop other chronic conditions, including diabetes and hypertension, cardiovascular disease and stroke, as well as depression and anxiety.1 LB 949 and LB 970 will help individuals with diabetes, who may also be managing other chronic conditions like psoriasis, have affordable access to insulin.

Numerous studies have demonstrated that individuals with psoriatic disease face a higher risk for diabetes, even when controlling for risk factors such as obesity and hypertension. One study that compared over 100,000 individuals with psoriasis to matched patients without psoriasis found that patients with mild psoriasis had an 11% increased risk of diabetes and patients with severe psoriasis had a 46% higher risk of diabetes.2 Another study found that, after accounting for diabetes risk factors, diabetes risk increased by 20% with every 10% increase in psoriasis body surface area.3

It is critical that patients with psoriatic disease, diabetes, and other chronic conditions have the tools they need to effectively manage their disease. When facing high out of pocket costs, patients often do not use their medications appropriately; skipping doses in order to save money or abandoning treatment altogether. Furthermore, according to several studies prescription abandonment rates increase significantly when cost-sharing exceeds just $100.4

In regard to Sec. 1 (3) of LB 949 and AM 2292, the NPF is still reviewing the original bill language and the amendment to determine the effects on patients with psoriatic disease who are also managing diabetes in Nebraska. The NPF would be happy to follow up with the Committee

members after the hearing regarding additional findings about premiums and insulin costs for psoriatic patients.

By limiting the cost of insulin prescriptions to $100 per thirty-day supply, LB 949 and LB 970 will help reduce patient costs, thereby improving patient’s ability to access insulin. We appreciate your attention on this important matter. Should you have any questions regarding this issue please reach out to Kristen Stiffler, State Government Relations Manager – Central Region with the National Psoriasis Foundation at kstiffler@psoriasis.org.

Sincerely,

Kristen Stiffler
State Government Relations Manager – Central Region