This letter will be circulated for sign on by Representatives John Joyce (R-PA-13) and Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL-25) when the FY25 deadlines and instructions are issued. To join the letter, contact Matt.Tucker@mail.house.gov and Patrick.Koetzle@mail.house.gov.

DATE

The Honorable Robert Aderholt The Honorable Rosa DeLauro

Chair Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Committee on Appropriations Committee on Appropriations

Washington, DC 20515 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro,

Thank you for your leadership in crafting the fiscal year 2025 (FY25) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you consider opportunities for funding, we write to share information on the unmet needs in the psoriatic disease community and to encourage you to continue to support proven public health interventions.

Psoriatic disease is an immune-mediated disease that affects eight million Americans. Psoriatic disease includes psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis (PsA), and related systemic inflammation. While psoriatic disease primarily affects the skin, most patients have evidence of systemic inflammation which increases their risk for the development of many comorbidities. Individuals living with severe psoriatic disease have a reduced life expectancy, and many are more likely to suffer from conditions such as hypertension, stroke, mental health, and diabetes.

The recent establishment of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Chronic Disease Education and Awareness Program has made it possible to pursue public health interventions for diseases, like psoriatic disease, that have not been of historical focus. This program recently supported a broad patient and medical education program. It also produced a Health Indicator Report prepared by clinical epidemiologists highlighting the significant public health burden of psoriasis in the U.S., as well as proven opportunities for intervention to improve early diagnosis. Early diagnosis of psoriatic disease can avert serious and costly health outcomes that result from runaway inflammation, including increased mortality, cardiovascular disease, and permanent joint deterioration.

The success of the projects enabled by grants from this program have highlighted areas where additional work can further improve the outlook for individuals with psoriasis. These include developing community-based interventions to further educate patients and aid early diagnosis, as well as leveraging new data collected through the National Health Interview Survey to address evidence gaps. In order to support these and other important initiatives, we respectfully urge the Committee consider the following programmatic and report language requests:

* $6 million for the CDC Chronic Disease Education and Awareness Program
* *Psoriatic Disease.—*The Committee commends CDC for supporting the development of a national health indicator report on the burden of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis in the United States. This report noted that approximately 8 million Americans are affected by psoriatic disease and that the systemic inflammation that characterizes psoriatic disease also leads to comorbidities including heart disease, diabetes, and depression. The Committee also recognizes CDC for piloting activities to demonstrate the success of public health interventions to reduce this burden, particularly among rural populations and those that are underdiagnosed. The Committee urges CDC to leverage these evidence-based learnings into outcomes by partnering with stakeholders to implement promising interventions.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests. We look forward to working with you as you craft the FY25 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,