



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

January 28th, 2020

The Honorable Deborah Armstrong  
Chair, House Health & Human Services Committee  
490 Old Santa Fe Trail  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

**RE: Support HB 100- Health Insurance Exchange Changes**

Dear Chairwoman Armstrong and members of the House Health & Human Services 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 51,000 New Mexico residents living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. I write to you today to express our support for HB 100.

Psoriatic disease has an unpredictable course of symptoms, a number of external triggers and significant comorbidities including arthritis, cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease and depression<sup>1</sup>. Adequate, affordable, and accessible care for our patient population is essential. In addition to managing psoriatic diseases, our patient community experiences a higher incidence of comorbid conditions that, without proper diagnosis and care, negatively impacts their quality of life and the efficacy of treatment.<sup>2</sup> A strong, robust marketplace is essential to accessing comprehensive coverage that includes all of the treatments and services that our patients need to stay healthy at an affordable cost.

Currently, New Mexicans are limited when selecting a health plan in the individual market; many being offered one option. Limiting of options restricts a patient's ability to adequately choose a plan that works for them and their budget. It can hinder the ability to access providers who specialize in their disease and ultimately can force them to choose between treatment and financial burden.

HB 100 establishes additional options in the individual market with the standard of reducing out of pocket costs and increasing services and care. We applaud Chair Armstrong's leadership on this bill and encourage other members to support HB 100 to expand access to care for patients.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please reach out to Brittany Duffy-Goche with the National Psoriasis Foundation at [bduffy-goche@psoriasis.org](mailto:bduffy-goche@psoriasis.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Beranek", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Randy Beranek  
President & CEO

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<sup>1</sup> (WHO). WHO. Global Report on Psoriasis. Geneva: World Health Organization;

<sup>2</sup> Wan, M.T, Shin, D.B, Hubbard, R.A, Noe, M.H, Mehta, N.N and Gelfand, J.M. Psoriasis and the risk of diabetes; a prospective population-based cohort study. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2018; 78: 315-322.e1