March 10th, 2020

The Honorable Susan Lontine
Chair, House Health & Insurance Committee
200 E Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Support HB 20-1349- Colorado Affordable Health Care Option

Dear Chairwoman Lontine and members of the House Health & Insurance 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 over 195,000 Colorado residents living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. I write to you today to express our support for HB 20-1349 which expands options in the market and increases access to care for our patients.

Psoriatic disease is a chronic immune-mediated disease with heterogeneous characteristics that requires sophisticated medical care. 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\(^1\). Managing psoriatic diseases often means managing multiple comorbid conditions at once that without proper diagnosis and care can severely impact a patient’s quality of life and the efficacy of treatment.\(^2\) For people with psoriatic disease, 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, Coloradans are limited when selecting a health plan in the individual market; some counties only offering one plan on the market 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 paying high out of pocket costs or forgoing treatment. Adequate, affordable, and accessible care for our patient population is essential.

HB 20-1349 establishes additional options in the individual market with the objective of reducing out of pocket costs and increasing services and care. We encourage the members to support HB 20-1349 to expand access to care for patients. Thank you for your time and

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consideration. If you have any questions, please reach out to Brittany Duffy-Goche with the National Psoriasis Foundation at bduffy-goche@psoriasis.org

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Brittany Duffy-Goche
State Government Relations Manager