



NATIONAL  
**PSORIASIS**  
FOUNDATION®

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

January 29th, 2019

The Honorable Eileen Cody  
Chair, House Health Care & Wellness Committee  
257A John L. O'Brien  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia WA 98504

**RE: Support HB 1523- Increasing the Availability of Quality, Affordable Health Coverage in the Individual Market.**

Dear Chairwoman Cody and members of the 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 186,424 Washington residents living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. I write to you today to express our support for HB 1523.

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. 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, Washingtonians 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 1523 establishes additional options in the individual market with the standard of reducing out of pocket costs and increasing services and care. We encourage you to support HB 1523 to expand access to care for patients.

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). We look forward to seeing this legislation pass and to continue engaging in the regulatory process.

Sincerely,

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

Randy Beranek  
President & CEO