



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

May 6, 2019

Senator Jim McClendon, Chair
Senate Committee on Healthcare
11 South Union Street Suite 729
Montgomery, AL

RE: Support SB 73 (Orr) – To prohibit pharmacy benefit managers from preventing pharmacies and pharmacists from disclosing information

Dear Chair McClendon and Members of the Senate Committee on Healthcare:

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. NPF is the leading patient advocacy group for more than 8 million Americans and the estimated 122,339 Alabama residents living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. I write to you to express our support for HB 73, relating to contracts with pharmacies and pharmacists.

HB 73 prohibits a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) from restricting a pharmacist or pharmacy from disclosing cheaper alternatives to individuals purchasing prescription medication. With this law, an enrollee would be informed of all available treatment options and their cost as well as alternative methods of purchase. This reasonable approach to full disclosure enables patients to treat their disease at the lowest cost.

High out-of-pocket costs significantly impacts a patient's access to care. Many insured patients are unable to afford the medical care and the full range of treatments necessary to manage serious, chronic and potentially debilitating diseases including psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. A 2017 study of data collected from NPF surveys found that although roughly 89% of patients with psoriasis or psoriatic arthritis were covered by insurance, a little over half spend more than \$2,400 per year in out-of-pocket costs for their disease. In fact, some patients spend upwards of \$8,000 per year toward cost-sharing obligations. With high out-of-pocket costs already impeding access to care, it is critical policies ensure patients receive their treatments at a fair and reasonable price to both the subscriber and the plan.

This measure ensures patients are not paying more than their insurer when purchasing a prescription drug that is essential to maintaining their health. We thank you for attention on this important matter and support the passage of HB 73. Should you have any questions for NPF regarding this issue please contact Amy Prentice, Associate Director of State Government Relations (aprentice@psoriasis.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Beranek".

Randy Beranek
President and CEO

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