



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

March 15, 2024

Alaska State Legislature
120 4th St
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for SB 121 / HB 226:

Dear Honorable Legislator,

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 living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. I write to you today to express our support of your legislation SB 121 / HB 226 protecting Alaskan patients from manipulative steering by Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs).

With the top three PBMs controlling 80% of the market and vertically integrating to control each step in the process, they are becoming a monopolizing force that is driving local pharmacists out of business, and endangering patients. We believe that patients and their providers should be at the heart of all decision making processes, and that pharmacy choice is a patient right.

We are seeing patients being forced to fill their prescriptions for high cost biological drugs through PBM owned pharmacies, rather than their local pharmacy. Not only is this affecting the local economy and the businesses of local pharmacies, but many of the PBMs are steering patients to mail-order pharmacies. In the lower 48, mail order may be convenient or preferable for people with chronic illness. However, in Alaska due to the weather and geography, these mail order drugs are facing delays. Patients have been receiving their medications late, or even frozen – which renders them unusable.

The NPF is troubled that the number of individuals not treating their disease appropriately based on their severity of disease – currently 55% of individuals with psoriasis and 41% of individuals with psoriatic arthritis – may rise if access to treatment is threatened. This can also lead to the development of antibodies and loss of response to the drug. Having access to the right medication, at the right time is essential for patients.

For these reasons, National Psoriasis Foundation supports SB 121 / HB 226 to protect patient pharmacy choice and help to ensure continuity of care and prioritize the safety of those living chronic illnesses.

We appreciate your attention on this important matter. Should you have any questions for NPF regarding this issue please contact Lucy Laube, State Government Relations Specialist, at llaube@psoriasis.org or 619-415-6248.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucy Laube".



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Jason Harris

Vice President, Government Relations and Advocacy