



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

March 4, 2016

Senator Carlo Leon, Co-Chair  
Representative David Baram, Co-Chair  
General Law Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3500  
Hartford, CT 06106

**RE: Support SB 313 - An Act Concerning Biological Products**

Dear Co-Chairs Leon and Baram:

The National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) is a non-profit, voluntary health agency dedicated to curing psoriatic disease and improving the lives of those affected. The Psoriasis Foundation is the leading patient advocacy group for the 7.5 million Americans living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

The introduction of biologic products for the treatment of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis has been the most significant advancement in care for the psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis community in recent decades. Biologics have provided some patients with an effective therapy—many for the first time in their lives. While the community welcomes new and affordable treatments, patients with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis are keenly aware of the risks associated with biologics, including suppression of the immune system and the lack of long-term safety data for new treatments.

In contrast to the case with generic drugs, which are chemically identical to their branded counterparts, biosimilars are not chemically identical to their branded biologics counterparts because, as large, complex molecules derived from living cells using recombinant DNA technology, biologics can never be exactly replicated due to their inherent variability. The NPF believes that legislation concerning biologics is both an access and safety issue and neither should be sacrificed for the other, a balance can and has been found. We urge you to support SB 313 with the communication provision intact.

Sincerely,

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

Randy Beranek  
President & CEO

6600 SW 92nd Ave., Suite 300 | Portland, OR 97223-7195 | 800-723-9166 | Fax 503-245-0626

1800 Diagonal Rd., Suite 360 | Alexandria, VA 22314 | Fax 703-739-9800

[www.psoriasis.org](http://www.psoriasis.org)