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To the Prescription Drug Affordability Board,

I am an Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics within the Section of Allergy and Immunology at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU). I am writing in strong support of keeping Xolair (omalizumab) available to our pediatric and adult patients that suffer from various allergic conditions.

Xolair has been a life-changing medication to those suffering from asthma, nasal polyps, chronic hives, and food allergies for years. Since its first FDA approval in 2003 for asthma in adolescents and adults, Xolair has provided millions of patients relief when no other product had been helpful. It continues to be relevant and the optimal choice in many patients including pediatric patients with allergic asthma.

Xolair is the only FDA-approved therapy for food allergies outside of a little-used peanut immunotherapy product. Xolair has been shown in clinical studies and in real-life studies to reduce the severity of food allergy reactions, decrease anxiety around foods by patients and their caregivers, and improved quality of life by those suffering from food allergies. Removing this medication choice for this patient population would be devastating for their long-term health.

For patients with chronic urticaria (hives), Xolair remains the first-line therapy in those that are not responsive to antihistamines. The recent Joint Task Force Guidelines by the AAAAI/ACAAI lists Xolair as the advanced therapy of choice due to its efficacy and safety in this patient population. While other therapies have been introduced in the past year, their costs are similar to Xolair but have not been studied as extensively as Xolair in vulnerable populations such as pediatrics or in pregnant/lactating women.

In summary, Xolair remains a vital therapy for thousands of Oregonians due to this excellent efficacy and safety profiles. There are not other products on the market that are more cost effective or have the level of efficacy/safety data that Xolair carries due to its decades of clinical use.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shyam Joshi", is located below the word "Sincerely,".

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