

0519

Brackbill, Robert

From: Matt Richards [matt.richards@seiuhcpa.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2012 4:05 PM
To: Brackbill, Robert
Subject: Advance Copy of Cathy Olschefskey testimony
Attachments: Cathy Olschefskey Testimony.pdf

Mr. Brackbill-

Attached you will find an advance copy of Cathy Olschefskey's testimony for next week's hearing on the West Penn Allegheny Health System / Highmark transaction. Cathy does not have email so I submitting this on her behalf.

Regards,
Matt Richards

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Advance copy of Highmark / West Penn Allegheny Health System hearing testimony from:

Cathy Olschefsky
1248 9th Ave.
Natrona Heights, PA 15065
724-224-4099

Hello, my name is Cathy Olschefsky and not only am I an employee of Allegheny Valley Hospital, I am also a life-long resident of Natrona Heights, where our facility is located. I have been an employee for 23 years and have seen many changes at AVH - most recently for the better. I feel we are on the path forward to improved quality with our emergency room expansion, our chest pain unit, and many other healthcare upgrades.

I am here today to challenge the commission to not only do the right thing for the employees of AVH but for my community at large. We are one of the largest employers in the valley. We have always strived to give quality patient care with that "hometown feel" because we are a hometown family. My brothers were born at Allegheny Valley, my mother passed there, my husband, my nieces and nephew today still use the excellent services the hospital provides.

As I and my co-workers become ever more cognizant of our aging community and the need to always keep the doors open, we feel anything less than a merger with Highmark will be totally detrimental to the entire community. As you know, this affects a vast healthcare system. That said, we also feel competition with UPMC gives the consumer options as to where they can choose their healthcare delivery – "choose" being the operative word. Monopolies are never about choice. Please approve this merge expeditiously.