

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 11:06 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Subject: Public Comment from Representative Randy Vulakovich
Attachments: Rep. Vulakovich Response.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment received by the Insurance Department from Representative Randy Vulakovich. I have copied Representative Vulakovich with the response by mail at the address appearing in the letterhead of his letter in support of the affiliation of Highmark Inc. and the West Penn Allegheny Health System.

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**BEFORE THE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Statement Regarding the Acquisition of Control of or Merger with Domestic Insurers:

Highmark Inc.; First Priority Life Insurance Company, Inc.; Gateway Health Plan, Inc.; Highmark Casualty Insurance Company; Highmark Senior Resources Inc.; HM Casualty Insurance Company; HM Health Insurance Company, d/b/a Highmark Health Insurance Company; HM Life Insurance Company; HMO of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc., d/b/a First Priority Health; Intercounty Health Plan, Inc.; Intercounty Hospitalization Plan, Inc.; Keystone Health Plan West, Inc.; United Concordia Companies, Inc.; United Concordia Dental Plans of Pennsylvania, Inc.; United Concordia Life and Health Insurance Company

By UPE, a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation

**Response of UPE to
Comment of State Representative Randy Vulakovich
Dated February 17, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Pennsylvania State Representative Randy Vulakovich dated February 23, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0083 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Representative Vulakovich has stated his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS") noting that the proposed affiliation is essential to preserve WPAHS and maintain provider choice in the region. Representative Vulakovich also points out that the affiliation will help revitalize WPAHS and thereby ensure the continued employment of the over 11,000 employees of the health system. Lastly, he adds that preservation of this community asset will benefit employers who seek to provide their employees with quality affordable health care coverage.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Representative Vulakovich and believes that this transaction is critical to ensuring the continued vitality of WPAHS by delivering value, choice, and high-quality health care services to the Western Pennsylvania community. UPE believes that continued provider choice and competition is essential to preserving and stabilizing the health care market in the region and the Commonwealth.

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UPE would like to thank the Representative Vulakovich for his comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: February 27, 2012

cc: Representative Randy Vulakovich

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