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**SENATE BOX 203046  
ROOM 15-EW THE STATE CAPITOL  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3046  
TELEPHONE: (717) 787-1463  
FAX: (717) 772-2108**

**EMAIL: [tsolobay@pasenate.com](mailto:tsolobay@pasenate.com)  
WEBSITE: [www.senatorsolobay.com](http://www.senatorsolobay.com)**



**Senate of Pennsylvania**

**TIMOTHY J. SOLOBAY  
46<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**

February 27, 2012

Robert Brackbill  
Chief, Company Licensing Division  
Pennsylvania Insurance Department  
1345 Strawberry Square  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. Brackbill,

As members of the General Assembly from Southwestern Pennsylvania, our districts include Canonsburg General Hospital, a member of the West Penn Allegheny Health System (WPAHS). Canonsburg General Hospital is located in Washington County.

Canonsburg General Hospital has provided patient-focused health care to our region for more than 100 years. In turn, the community and the Commonwealth have continuously supported this important community asset. Grants and donations in recent years have provided critical resources for a new emergency room and the expansion of several key clinical services that respond to the health care needs of the local population.

Of further benefit to patients in this area is the connection between Canonsburg and Allegheny General Hospital (AGH), a teaching hospital with a Level 1 Trauma Center, a renowned cardiovascular program, stroke center designation, medical and surgical oncology capabilities, and numerous other sub-specialties. LifeFlight, the first aeromedical transport system in the northeastern U.S., is headquartered at AGH and maintains a helicopter at Canonsburg.

Even with the continued expansion of services by Canonsburg, the entire West Penn Allegheny Health System remains financially challenged. Many of the system's nearly 12,000 employees reside in the Canonsburg area, and businesses in the region depend on WPAHS for excellent quality care for their employees. These individuals and groups fear the loss of choice in health care if WPAHS falters. The new partnership between WPAHS and Highmark Inc. will preserve access and choice, and ensure efficiency and quality for all patients and providers.

RB 0169

**DISTRICT OFFICE**

**CANONSBURG BOROUGH BUILDING  
68 EAST PIKE STREET, ROOM 205  
CANONSBURG, PA 15317  
TELEPHONE: (724) 746-3762  
FAX: (724) 746-3509**

**SATELLITE OFFICES**

**GEORGE WASHINGTON HOTEL  
60 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 207  
WASHINGTON, PA 15301  
TELEPHONE: (724) 223-2114  
FAX: (724) 223-2117**

**GREENE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
93 E. HIGH STREET, ROOM 308  
WAYNESBURG, PA 15370  
TELEPHONE: (724) 627-9802**

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**Pennsylvania  
Insurance Department**

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Robert Brackbill  
February 24, 2012

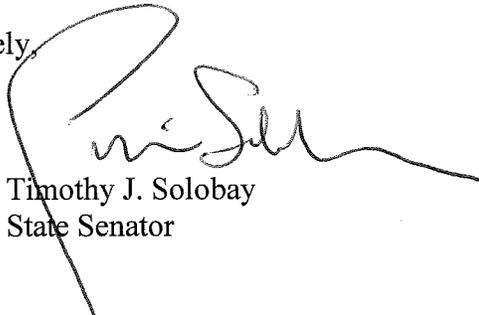
Page 2

To that end, we urge you to approve the proposed affiliation between WPAHS and Highmark Inc. as quickly as possible. Thanks very much for your consideration.



Brandon P. Neuman  
State Representative

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Solobay  
State Senator

TJS/BPN:lp

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