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Brackbill, Robert

From: Sicard, Lori K. [Lori.Sicard@AlleghenyCounty.US]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 2:20 PM
To: Brackbill, Robert
Cc: Catanese, Joe; Martoni, Charles
Subject: Affiliation of West Penn Allegheny Health System and Highmark Inc
Attachments: WPAHS, Highmark Affiliation Support Ltr.doc

Mr. Brackbill,

Allegheny County Council President, Charles Martoni, has sent you a letter via U.S. Mail in support of the WPAHS affiliation with Highmark Inc. Please find the attached electronic copy for your convenience. Thank you.

Lori Sicard
County Council
Constituent Services

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CHARLES MARTONI PRESIDENT

CHAIR,
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL
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PITTSBURGH, PA 15219
PHONE (412) 350-6560 · FAX (412) 350-6499
CHARLES.MARTONI@ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US
HTTP://WWW.ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US/COUNCIL

March 5, 2012

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

RE: Affiliation of West Penn Allegheny Health System and Highmark Inc,

Dear Mr. Brackbill,

As President of the Allegheny County Council and representative of District 8, the home of Forbes Regional Hospital, I write to urge you to approve the proposed affiliation of WPAHS and Highmark, Inc.

As a member of the legislative branch of Allegheny County, I am acutely aware of the health care issues facing our region. My constituents communicate concerns to me on a regular basis.

Our communities' concerns are as follows:

Choice for patients and physicians is at risk. The Pittsburgh region is unique in the nation in the dominance of one healthcare delivery system. The finances of the West Penn Allegheny Health System are fragile and without the Highmark affiliation, patients will have no choice in where they get care. Physicians will not have choices in where they practice their profession.

The WPAHS-Highmark affiliation will preserve important community assets and jobs. The individual hospitals which make up WPAHS are major employers in their home communities and they provide millions of dollars of "community benefit" to the region each year. Natrona Heights, Monroeville, Bloomfield and the North Side of Pittsburgh benefit from and support their hospitals. There are more than 11,000 WPAHS employees who reside in Allegheny County and the immediate region.

I support this transaction and believe that your review will conclude that expeditious approval of the proposed affiliation is the correct action for patients and providers in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles J. Martoni, Vice-President
District 8 Representative