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Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:17 AM
To: tsolobay@pasenate.com; RepNeuman@pahouse.net
Cc: Bybee, Cressinda
Subject: Response to Public Comment
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Senator Solobay, Representative Neuman,

Attached is a response to the letter that you sent to the Pennsylvania Insurance Department expressing support for the affiliation of Highmark and West Penn Allegheny Health System.

Your comments in support of the affiliation are greatly appreciated.

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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 Senator Timothy Solobay
and State Representative Brandon Neuman
Dated February 27, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comments from Pennsylvania State Senator Timothy Solobay and Pennsylvania State Representative Brandon Neuman received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on March 1, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0169 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Senator Solobay and Representative Neuman have offered their support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS") stating that the proposed affiliation will ensure access for their constituents to Canonsburg General Hospital, which has been a valued community asset for over 100 years. Additionally, they note that many of the nearly 12,000 WPAHS employees reside in the Canonsburg area and businesses in the region rely on the facility for quality healthcare for their employees.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Senator Solobay and Representative Neuman and believes that the proposed affiliation of Highmark and WPAHS is essential to ensuring the continued vitality of WPAHS so that it can continue to deliver value, choice, and high-quality health care services. UPE believes that ensuring continued

access to the highly renowned services provided by Canonsburg General Hospital and other WPAHS campuses is critical to the Western Pennsylvania community.

UPE would like to thank Senator Solobay and Representative Neuman for their comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: March 8, 2012

cc: Sen. Timothy J. Solobay
Rep. Brandon P. Neuman