

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:48 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: Lori.Sicard@AlleghenyCounty.US
Subject: Response to Comment from Dr. Charles J. Martoni
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment received by the Insurance Department from Dr. Charles J. Martoni, President of the Allegheny County Council. I am also copying Dr. Martoni with the response by email at the email address in the email transmitting his comment letter to the Insurance Department.

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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; Inter-County Health Plan, Inc.;
Inter-County 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 Dr. Charles J. Martoni Dated March 5, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Charles Martoni received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department March 5, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0189 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Dr. Martoni, President of the Allegheny County Council and representative of District 8, has stated his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS") noting it will maintain consumer choice and preserve these valued community assets. Additionally, Dr. Martoni states that WPAHS is one of the major employers in the community and the proposed affiliation will strengthen the health system and help protect the more than 11,000 jobs for people in these Western Pennsylvania communities.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Dr. Martoni and finds it crucial that the proposed affiliation is completed in a timely manner so that the region can maintain provider choice, competitive health care pricing, and continued stable employment.

UPE would like to thank Dr. Martoni for his comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: March 12, 2012

cc: Dr. Charles Martoni