Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:36 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Subject: Response to comment letter from Representative Mike Turzai
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment in support of the affiliation received by the Insurance Department from Representative Mike Turzai. I am also providing Representative Turzai with a copy of the response to his comments by email.

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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 Joyce Bender Dated March 12, 2012

UPE is responding to the comment from Joyce A. Bender, founder and CEO of Bender Consulting Services, Inc., received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department March 12, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0229 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Ms. Bender has stated her support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS"). She states that without this continued provider choice in the region, health care costs will continue to rise and burden small employers who strive to provide their employees with high-quality affordable health care.

UPE agrees with Ms. Bender and believes that the proposed affiliation between Highmark and WPAHS is essential to preserving competition and provider choice to consumers in the region. The ultimate plan is to build a new integrated health system that will deliver value, choice, and high-quality health care services to the Western Pennsylvania community.

UPE would like to thank Ms. Bender for her comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: March 22, 2012

cc: Joyce A. Bender