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Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 10:17 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Subject: Response to Public Comment Letter from James Kelly
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment received by the Insurance Department from James Kelly, a member of the Western Pennsylvania Community Partnership. I am also copying Dr. Kelly with the response by mail at the address appearing in the letterhead of his letter in support of the affiliation of Highmark Inc. and the West Penn Allegheny Health System.

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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 James Kelly Dated March 12, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from James M. Kelly received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on March 15, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0252 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Dr. Kelly, a member of the Western Pennsylvania Community Partnership, has offered his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS"). He states that West Penn Hospital is critical to providing quality care, education, and health resources to the people of Pittsburgh's East End neighborhoods.

UPE is in agreement with Dr. Kelly and believes that this transaction is critical to ensuring the continued vitality of the WPAHS and maintaining access to healthcare in the community. The ultimate plan is to build a new integrated health system that will deliver value, choice, and high-quality health care services to the citizens of Western Pennsylvania.

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

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 3, 2012

cc: James Kelly, PhD, LSW