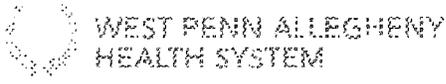


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30 Isabella Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

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

RECEIVED
Corporate & Financial Regulation
MAR 30 2012

**Pennsylvania
Insurance Department**

April 17, 2012

Dear Mr. Brackbill:

As physicians, employees, supporters and patients of West Penn Allegheny Health System, we support the proposed affiliation of Highmark and West Penn Allegheny Health System.

We endorse the affiliation because:

- We support improving the health of the people in the western Pennsylvania region
- We support consumer choice, access to health-care and reigning in health-care costs in southwestern Pennsylvania
- We support delivering high-quality and high-value health care
- We support protecting community charitable assets and preserving the jobs of 11,000 or more West Penn Allegheny Health System employees
- We support a partnership that is good for western Pennsylvania and sets an example of how to improve the U.S. health-care system
- We support enabling dedicated employees and physicians to continue to deliver the high-quality care that WPAHS hospitals are nationally recognized for today
- We support revitalizing West Penn Hospital and investing in Allegheny General Hospital, Allegheny Valley Hospital, Canonsburg General Hospital and Forbes Regional Hospital

For these reasons, we ask you to approve the Highmark-WPAHS affiliation agreement as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Kevin H. Kitlowski

AGH

Name Location Physician Employee Patient Supporter

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