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Brackbill, Robert

From: Paul McKrell [paul.mckrell@pittsburghpa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 10:17 AM
To: Brackbill, Robert
Subject: Letter from Mayor Ravenstahl
Attachments: BrackbillHighmarkWPAHS.pdf

Dear Mr. Brackbill,

Please find the attached letter from Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl concerning Highmark and West Penn Allegheny Health Systems proposed merger.

Mayor Ravenstahl has also registered to speak in support of this affiliation at the Public Informational Hearing scheduled for April 17th in Pittsburgh.

Thank you,
Paul McKrell

Bcc: Pennsylvania State Senators
Community Stakeholders
Interested Parties

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Paul McKrell
Government Affairs Manager
Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl
City of Pittsburgh

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CITY OF PITTSBURGH

"AMERICA'S MOST LIVABLE CITY"

Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

0433

April 10, 2012

Mr. Robert E. Brackbill, Jr.
Chief, Company Licensing Division
Pennsylvania Insurance Department
1345 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Subject: Affiliation of West Penn Allegheny Health System and Highmark, Inc.

Dear Mr. Brackbill:

The purpose of this letter is to urge your approval of the affiliation of West Penn Allegheny Health System (WPAHS) and Highmark, Inc. The WPAHS includes The Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Allegheny General Hospital, Allegheny Valley Hospital, Forbes Regional Hospital and Forbes Hospice in Allegheny County and the Canonsburg General Hospital in Allegheny County.

The physicians, nurses, technicians and support staff of WPAHS provide excellent quality care for our friends, families and colleagues on a 24/7 basis. This includes over 62,000 admissions, 835,000 outpatient visits and 170,000 emergency room visits annually. For the third year in a row, WPAHS was ranked by Thompson Reuters in the top 20 percent of medical centers in the nation measured on quality, safety and patient satisfaction based only on objective outcomes data, not opinion polls. Heart and liver transplant survival rates for patients who receive care at Allegheny General Hospital are the highest in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The WPAHS umbrella has over 11,000 employees in Bloomfield and surrounding areas. These communities are a high priority in the City of Pittsburgh and are essential to the vitality and growth of our neighborhoods and our region.

Highmark, Inc. has shown an undeniable commitment to providing the capital for critically needed improvements to WPAHS facilities. With the proposed affiliation, we would preserve millions of dollars in community benefits to the Pittsburgh region each year. We would also create much-needed regional competition among providers and offer choice for patients. Without such choice, we expect that many physicians would leave our region, further exacerbating the existing shortage of physicians, particularly primary care doctors.

I respectfully request that you approve the WPAHS affiliation with Highmark, Inc., in the best interests of the people of the City of Pittsburgh.

Sincerely,

Luke Ravenstahl
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

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