

0447

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 9:50 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: matthew.barron@pittsburghpa.gov
Subject: Response to Public Comment from Pittsburgh City Councilman William Peduto
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 Pittsburgh City Councilman William Peduto. I am also copying Councilman Peduto's office with the response 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 Pittsburgh City Councilman William Peduto
Dated March 14, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Pittsburgh City Councilman William Peduto dated March 14, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0340 on the Highmark/West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Councilman Peduto has stated his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS") noting that the proposed affiliation is essential to sustain WPAHS and maintain a vital economic asset in the region. Councilman Peduto further states that the proposed affiliation will preserve competition in the market and choice for local employers including the City of Pittsburgh where he chairs the Committee on Human Resources.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Councilman Peduto and believes that this transaction will ensure the continued vitality of WPAHS by delivering value, choice, and high-quality healthcare services to the Western Pennsylvania community. UPE agrees that maintaining continued provider choice and competition is essential to preserving and stabilizing the healthcare market in the region and the Commonwealth.

UPE would like to thank Councilman Peduto for his comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 19, 2012

cc: Councilman William Peduto