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Brackbill, Robert

From: Larry Grumet [ugrantme18@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 7:28 AM
To: Consedine, Michael; Brackbill, Robert; Rohrbaugh, Randolph
Subject: Highmark & WPAHS Merger

Gentlemen of the PA Department of Insurance:

As one who has been complaining about Highmark's rate hikes over the past 10 years, I find myself in an unusual position. I want to actually compliment them on their acquisition/merger/investment into WPAHS. I believe it is in the best interest of the patient population etc. of Western Pennsylvania for this to be approved by your department.

I was not able to attend your hearing of yesterday, so I wanted to go on record with this communication. As the mayor of Braddock was quoted regarding this merger and the closure of UPMC's Braddock Hospital; "Without this merger, we are all Braddock". He was right on point. Just as I was opposed to Highmark merger with Independence Blue Cross years ago for similar reasons, I am opposed to UPMC becoming a monopoly and the population of Western Pennsylvani becoming "collateral damage" in the process.

Please approve the joining of Highmark & WPAHS.

Thanks for listening
Larry Grumet
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