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March 15, 2013

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Commissioner's Office

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Pennsylvania
Insurance Department

Michael F. Consedine
Pennsylvania Insurance Department
1326 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA. 17120

Dear Commissioner Consedine:

The Simulation Teaching and Academic Research (STAR) Center at West Penn Allegheny Health System is a virtual hospital reflecting the patient and family experience from admission to discharge. We were the first international accredited simulation center in Pittsburgh and among only twenty- two in the world. A center like STAR does not exist in Pittsburgh or in any other city in our state.

We have been in existence for five years and have trained over 55,000 health care workers within West Penn Allegheny Health System and in Pittsburgh and the surrounding areas. We also have a robust Allied Health Training Academy with a career ladder to prepare future health care leaders of tomorrow. We have mobile units that travel to rural areas to provide training to our EMS providers. We provide educational programs for local colleges and universities. Our work impacts health care by allowing practitioners of all levels to practice and perfect their skills prior to patient encounters thus reducing errors and enhancing safe, quality health care.

Alone STAR cannot continue our mission however a strong partnership with Highmark Inc. will allow us to continue to provide this training to the ever growing and much needed health care profession. As Insurance Commissioner we ask you to please assist in making this partnership possible. Together with Highmark we can create a model for other institutions to follow, one that will transform the delivery and the future of healthcare. Please help us to continue our work to serve the people in our region, in our state and in our nation. As one team, Highmark and STAR can and will make a difference.

Respectfully:



Donald J. Wilfong Jr., MD



Donamarie N- Wilfong, DNP. RN

Co founders/Directors
STAR Center @ WPAHS



STAR
Simulation, Teaching and Academic Research Center
at West Penn Allegheny Health System

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