

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2013 1:04 PM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Subject: Response to Public Comments from WPAHS Employees
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee,

Attached is a response from UPE to the recent public comments that the Insurance Department has received from employees of WPAHS. This general response is being provided in lieu of individual responses to each of the WPAHS employees who have submitted public comments.

If you have any questions or need any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Ron Chronister

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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
Comments of West Penn Allegheny Health System Employees**

UPE is responding to the recent comments received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department from several current employees of West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS").

Employees of WPAHS continue to affirm their support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and WPAHS. These employees have stated that the proposed affiliation will improve consumer choice and access to health care while improving the health of the people of the region as WPAHS is recognized as delivering nationally acclaimed care. They also note that the affiliation will help preserve these longstanding community assets and the nearly 11,000 jobs in the area at the numerous WPAHS facilities, and eagerly await the Department's disposition of this matter.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of the WPAHS employees and believes this transaction to be necessary in providing the citizens of Western Pennsylvania with value, choice, and high-quality health care. UPE also believes that preserving these vital community and economic assets benefits the region as a whole in addition to WPAHS employees and the patients they serve.

UPE would like to thank the WPAHS employees for their comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 15, 2013