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Brackbill, Robert

From: Sam Williamson [SWilliamson@seiu32bj.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2013 11:36 AM
To: Brackbill, Robert
Subject: Fwd:
Attachments: DOC005.PDF; ATT00001.htm

Mr. Brackbill,

Please see the attached letter concerning our support of the proposed affiliation between Highmark and WPAHS.

thanks,

Sam Williamson

Staff Director • SEIU Local 32BJ, Western Pennsylvania District
209 9th Street, 10th Floor • Pittsburgh, PA 15222 • (412) 471-0690 • fax (412) 471-6810

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April 18, 2013

Robert Brackbill
Chief, Company Licensing Division
Insurance Department
1345 Strawberry Square
Harrisburgh, PA 17120

Dear Mr. Brackbill:

I am writing on behalf of SEIU Local 32BJ, and the 6,000 members we represent in western Pennsylvania, in support of the proposed affiliation between Highmark Insurance and the West Penn Allegheny Health System (WPAHS).

The successful affiliation between Highmark and WPAHS is crucial for my members – many of whom rely on WPAHS as a high-quality and cost-efficient health care provider – and for the entire region. The affiliation will:

- Preserve nearly 12,000 jobs (including those of over 2,000 union members) at WPAHS, Pittsburgh's 4th largest private sector employer
- Ensure access and meaningful competition in the western Pennsylvania health care market, promoting higher quality and lower costs for patients
- Sustain an important community asset and engine for economic growth
- Protect millions of Highmark members across the region by allowing the insurer to assemble an alternative provider network to UPMC, which has declared its intention to sever its contractual relationship with Highmark in January 2015

For these reasons, among others, I ask you to approve the Highmark-WPAHS affiliation agreement as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Sam Williamson