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Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2013 11:12 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: vdragone@teamsters491.com
Subject: Response to Public Comment from the Chauffeurs, Teamsters & Helpers, Local Union No. 491
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee,

Attached please find UPE's response to the public comment submitted by Vito Dragone, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer of the captioned union, local chapter 491. I am providing Mr. Dragone with a copy of the response with this email.

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
Comment of Vito Dragone, Jr. Dated April 19, 2013**

UPE is responding to the comment from Vito Dragone, Jr. received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department ("Department") on April 19, 2013. The comment is numbered as Document 1364 on the Highmark/West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Department website.

Mr. Dragone represents Local 491 of the Chauffeurs, Teamsters & Helpers Union and has stated his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System, Inc. ("WPAHS"). In particular, he notes that the proposed affiliation is essential to sustain WPAHS, maintain a vital economic asset and preserve jobs in the region. Mr. Dragone further states that the proposed affiliation will preserve competition in the market and choice for local consumers and businesses.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Mr. Dragone and believes that this affiliation will help to ensure the continued vitality of WPAHS by delivering value, choice, and high-quality health care services to the western Pennsylvania community. UPE agrees that maintaining continued provider choice and competition is essential to preserving and stabilizing the health care market in the region.

UPE would like to thank Mr. Dragone for his comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 24, 2013
cc: Vito Dragone, Jr.