

Brackbill, Robert

From: Matt Richards [matt.richards@seiuhcpa.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2012 4:19 PM
To: Brackbill, Robert
Subject: Advance Copy of Aimee Miller testimony
Attachments: Aimee Miller Testimony.pdf

Mr. Brackbill-

Attached you will find an advance copy of Aimee Miller's testimony for next week's hearing on the West Penn Allegheny Health System / Highmark transaction. Aimee does not have email so I submitting this on her behalf.

Regards,
Matt Richards

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Advance copy of Highmark / West Penn Allegheny Health System hearing testimony from:

Aimee Miller
37 Natrona St.
Natrona, PA 15065
724-448-5554

Good morning, my name is Aimee Miller and I am a nurse at Allegheny Valley Hospital in Natrona Heights. I support the affiliation of West Penn Allegheny Health System with Highmark and urge the Insurance Department to approve it as soon as possible.

I grew up in Natrona Heights, and I still live there today. It's a small steel mill town like many others in this region. There are two major employers, the mill and the hospital, each employing hundreds of people.

Most of the people in our town were born here, they worked here, and have retired here. We have lots of elderly people in our community that depend on our hospital and the doctors that are affiliated with us. They've been coming to our hospital for decades. We're familiar faces to them and we know them by name. It helps lessen their fear, and makes them feel comfortable that they're getting quality care right in their community.

It would be a huge ordeal for many of our elderly patients to have to go to a different hospital. Many have chronic conditions that require regular checkups, and the next closest hospital is about 15 miles away. They can't easily go into the city for care, and there's no need for them to. We provide high quality care right there at AVH. We are transitioning to electronic medical records to make sure we have our patients' full histories right at our fingertips. We have a new MRI machine and department to have the best diagnostic imaging. We are constantly improving our hospital to serve our patients better.

Beyond that, our hospital provides other important services to the Natrona Heights community. At Destination Wellness at the Pittsburgh Mills, we do health screenings, give flu shots and have educational events. We also have emergency drills and are prepared for an industrial accident if something were ever to go wrong down at the mill.

Allegheny Valley Hospital employees and our community are committed to keeping our community hospital open – and I think the best way to do that is to have it affiliated with Highmark. That will give us the resources we need to keep moving our hospital forward and providing the quality care our community expects and deserves. Please approve this affiliation.