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Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 10:09 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: barbifamily@verizon.net
Subject: Response to Public Comment from Cindy Barbi
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment received by the Insurance Department from Cindy Barbi. I am also copying Ms. Barbi with the response by email.

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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 Cindy Barbi Dated April 9, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Cindy Barbi dated April 9, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0439 on the Highmark/West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Ms. Barbi has expressed concerns about the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS"). Ms. Barbi is concerned that proposed affiliation may diminish her ability to access her current health care providers.

UPE understands Ms. Barbi's concerns and believes that the proposed affiliation will ultimately provide more choices for all customers by maintaining WPAHS as one of the premier healthcare providers in the state. Highmark remains committed to providing quality, affordable healthcare to the consumers of Western Pennsylvania which is why it remains open to contracting with all providers. The affiliation will also serve to control costs by preserving competition in the local healthcare market.

UPE would like to thank Ms. Barbi for her comments.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 19, 2012

cc: Cindy Barbi