

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 1:53 PM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: pearlreapaf@comcast.net
Subject: Response to Public Comment from Ms. Peg Bittner
Attachments: Response to Comment of Peg Bittner.pdf

Ms. Bybee,

Attached please find Highmark Inc.'s response to the public comment received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department from Ms. Peg Bittner. I am providing Ms. Bittner 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:

Hospital Service Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania, d/b/a Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania;
First Priority Life Insurance Company, Inc.;;
HMO of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc. d/b/a First Priority Health

By Highmark Inc., a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation

**Response of Highmark Inc. to
Comment of Peg Bittner Received March 3, 2014**

Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") is responding to the comment from Ms. Peg Bittner received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on March 3, 2014. The comment is numbered as Document 0030 on the Highmark/ BCNEPA Cumulative Log on the Pennsylvania Insurance Department's website.

Ms. Bittner has offered a comment on the proposed merger of Highmark and Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania ("BCNEPA") based on a concern that the merger would not be in the best interests of BCNEPA or Highmark, their employees or customers or the communities that the companies serve.

A merger of BCNEPA and Highmark will assure that the needs of customers in the BCNEPA Service Area are supported by a company with a strong commitment to social mission and an ability to make meaningful contributions to local communities, both individually and through a diverse portfolio of companies that, in combination, offer economic strength and employment potential. Likewise, Highmark will continue to provide its existing policyholders and subscribers with the high quality and innovative products and services they have come to know and expect.

In addition, a merged Highmark-BCNEPA will be able to offer new products and services and capabilities that will serve the long-term needs of customers throughout Pennsylvania.

Highmark Inc. would like to thank Ms. Bittner for her comments.

Highmark Inc.
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 16, 2014

cc: Peg Bittner