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Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald <ronald.chronister@bipc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 04, 2014 8:59 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: yudichak@pasenate.com
Subject: Response to Public Comment from Senator Yudichak
Attachments: HBG1_GENERAL-1883318-v1-Response to Public Comment from Senator Yudichak.DOC

Ms. Bybee,

Attached please find Highmark Inc.'s response to the public comment received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department from Senator John Yudichak. I am providing Senator Yudichak 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
Comments of Senator John T. Yudichak Dated September 24, 2014**

Highmark Inc. is responding to the comment from State Senator John T. Yudichak received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on September 24, 2014. The comment is numbered as Document 0683 on the Highmark/BCNEPA Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Senator Yudichak has offered comments supportive of the proposed merger of Highmark and Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania (BCNEPA) based on his belief that the merger will help to create greater health care efficiencies and new products and services for customers in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

Highmark Inc. is in agreement with the comments. As noted by Senator Yudichak, Highmark and BCNEPA are long term business partners with a history of effectively serving the health needs of residents of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania. The Highmark/BCNEPA merger is a natural next step in the successful business relationship that the two companies have had for decades and will bring benefits to the communities the combined companies will serve in the form of continued access to affordable high quality health care.

Highmark Inc. would like to thank Senator Yudichak for his comments and support and his commitment to the residents of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

Highmark Inc.
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: November 4, 2014

cc: Senator John T. Yudichak