

0857

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald <ronald.chronister@bipc.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 11:17 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: pshockloss@yahoo.com
Subject: Response to Public Comment from Ms. Patricia Shockloss
Attachments: HBG1_GENERAL-1912098-v1-Response to Public Comment from P. Shockloss.DOC

Ms. Bybee,

Attached please find Highmark Inc.'s response to the public comment received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department from Patricia Shockloss. I am providing Ms. Shockloss with a copy of the response with this email.

Ron Chronister

CONFIDENTIAL/PRIVILEGED INFORMATION: This e-mail message (including any attachments) is a private communication sent by a law firm and may contain confidential, legally privileged or protected information meant solely for the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is prohibited and may be unlawful. Please notify the sender immediately by replying to this message, then delete the e-mail and any attachments from your system..

**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 Patricia Shockloss Dated January 6, 2015**

Highmark Inc. is responding to the comment from Patricia Shockloss received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on January 6, 2015. The comment is numbered as Document 0833 on the Highmark/BCNEPA Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Ms. Shockloss has offered comments on the proposed merger of Highmark and Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania (BCNEPA) apparently opposing the merger based on the belief that Highmark “already owns” BCNEPA.

Ms. Shockloss is incorrect. The two companies are long-term business partners, and Highmark holds an ownership interest in two BCNEPA subsidiaries. Highmark also provides BCNEPA with claims processing and data center services. However, Highmark and BCNEPA today are separate organizations. Each has a proud history of serving customers and subscribers in their respective service areas, and their merger is a natural progression of the successful business relationship that they have enjoyed for decades.

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

Highmark Inc.
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: January 22, 2015

cc: Patricia Shockloss