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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

May 8, 2017

Joseph DiMemmo, CPA
Deputy Insurance Commissioner
Office of Corporate & Financial Regulation
Pennsylvania Insurance Department
1345 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

VIA EMAIL: ra-in-comment@pa.gov

RE: Modification to Order No. ID-RC-13-06

Dear Deputy Commissioner DiMemmo:

I strongly believe that competition in the healthcare marketplace should be allowed to flourish, particularly in western Pennsylvania, which is why I am writing in support of the proposed modification to Order No. ID-RC-13-06. The proposed modifications will benefit consumers and community hospitals because it helps foster a more level playing field for health care competition in western Pennsylvania.

I have long railed against healthcare providers with monopolistic behaviors, and I believe that marketplace competition restrains their monopolistic pursuits. Such a competitive environment ultimately protects consumers and community hospitals. In order to effectively maintain Pittsburgh's competitive marketplace, AHN needs maximum flexibility to make timely and strategic investments so that AHN can effectively compete with large provider systems.

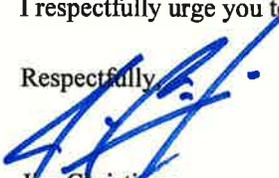
A marketplace with robust competition allows community hospitals, such as Heritage Valley, to flourish by not falling victim to massive health systems pursuing monopolistic goals. Heritage Valley Health System, a \$480 million healthcare network providing comprehensive healthcare for residents of Allegheny, Beaver, Butler and Lawrence counties, in Pennsylvania; eastern Ohio; and the panhandle of West Virginia. In partnership with 3,500 employees and more than 450 physicians, Heritage Valley offers a broad range of medical, surgical and diagnostic services at its two hospitals, Heritage Valley Sewickley and Heritage Valley Beaver; in 60 physician offices; and 18 community satellite facilities.

I am convinced that Highmark Health has a comprehensive strategic plan for AHN through 2020, such that AHN may thrive, as an Integrated Delivery and Financing System, after the expiration of the "Consent Decree" with UPMC.

My constituents benefit from a financially successful and stronger AHN, because Highmark can limit the growth of premium costs for its members, help reduce overall healthcare costs for all customers, and maintain convenient access to high quality providers and resources across western Pennsylvania.

I respectfully urge you to favorably consider the requested modification.

Respectfully,


Jim Christiana
15th Legislative District