



Disability Recruitment. Workplace Mentoring. Digital Accessibility.

Dear Commissioner Humphreys,

I appreciate the opportunity to reach out to you and discuss my support for Highmark. I have been the CEO of a national corporation that focuses on the competitive employment of people with disabilities since 1995. We have our headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and we are proud to be in the state of Pennsylvania. Since I founded the company, I have worked with Highmark, and they became and still are the largest supporter of hiring people with disabilities. This is a great company with the opportunity to serve more people.

I think the restriction limiting Highmark's provider contracts to a maximum of five years would be prohibitive to building long-term partnerships. Removing this limitation would help Highmark deliver better healthcare services to the community and could encourage contractual stability which would foster more efficient and cost-effective delivery of these services.

Also, the constraints on Highmark's financial commitments will limit the ability to support expansion of access points to provide excellent services through institutions like Allegheny Health Network. I believe that a flexible framework would enable Highmark Health to make good strategic investments that would benefit health care services from both a quality and accessibility perspective.

Mr. Humphreys, thank you for your service to our state and for the opportunity to reach out to you with my comments. My long-term relationship with Highmark has afforded me the opportunity to truly understand their commitment to providing quality healthcare services, but to also operate their business in a manner that helps their local community to thrive. It is my hope that by removing these restrictions that Highmark will be able to have an even bigger impact on both healthcare services and our community.

Joyce Bender

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce Bender". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chief Executive Officer,
Bender Consulting Services, Inc.