

From: Bill Greer [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 9:43 AM
To: Sheaffer, Kimberly <kimsheaffe@pa.gov>
Subject: [External] Letter of Support for Highmark request for relief

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To: Pennsylvania Insurance Department

I am writing to express my strong support for Highmark's request for relief regarding the Pennsylvania Insurance Department's (PID) Order. Highmark Health's significant achievements over the past decade have demonstrated that the original goals of the Order have been fulfilled.

Highmark Health's acquisition, approved by PID in 2013, successfully preserved competition in western Pennsylvania, offering consumers increased options for high-quality and affordable health insurance and care. The Allegheny Health Network (AHN) has been instrumental in improving access to care, creating new facilities, and enhancing patient safety and care quality.

Moreover, the Highmark/AHN partnership has delivered better care, lowered costs, and improved the member experience, as evidenced by safety grades, cost trends, and Net Promoter Scores. This successful integration of a health insurer and hospital system has not only preserved local healthcare jobs but also established a national model.

While acknowledging these achievements, it's essential to recognize that the current Order limits Highmark Health's ability to compete with other integrated delivery systems. This restriction hampers Highmark Health's capacity to expand access points to care and engage in long-term provider contracts, potentially increasing care costs for members.

Highmark Health, having played a pivotal role in saving healthcare competition in western PA, is seeking a level playing field. The continued success of the Highmark/AHN partnership in addressing public policy initiatives and bolstering retirement funds underscores its positive impact on the region.

In conclusion, I urge you to carefully consider Highmark's request for relief, recognizing the substantial benefits the organization has brought to western Pennsylvania over the past decade. Granting this relief will ensure continued growth, competition, and innovation in the region's healthcare landscape.

Sincerely,
William Greer

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