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Senate of Pennsylvania

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Michael Humphreys, Commissioner
Pennsylvania Insurance Department
1326 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Commissioner Humphreys,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for Highmark Health's request for relief from the Pennsylvania Insurance Department's Order from April of 2013. I believe that the conditions set forth in the Order addressed the PID's concerns – at the time – about preserving competition for consumers in Allegheny County among hospitals and insurers.

Ten years later, I also believe that the Order has accomplished its original goal of preserving competition in Allegheny County, which has been enhanced following the creation of Highmark Health. This includes the Allegheny Health Network, which has provided a critical expansion of affordable healthcare and has supported thousands of well-paying jobs.

The Allegheny Health Network has also thrived in the face of stiff competition as a high quality, lower cost provider. Since accomplishing its original goal, the Order now unduly limits Highmark Health's ability to compete with other integrated delivery systems that are not subject to the same regulatory conditions. Highmark Health and the Allegheny Health Network are vital members of our community in Allegheny County. Not only do they provide accessible, affordable, and reliable care for our region but also thousands of family sustaining health care jobs in our county.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the Pennsylvania Insurance Department to consider granting Highmark Health's request for relief of its Order from April of 2013.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Costa". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a cursive "Costa".

Senator Jay Costa
Democratic Leader