

**RANDY VULAKOVICH, MEMBER
30TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

HARRISBURG OFFICE:
P.O. BOX 202030
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2030
PHONE: (717) 260-6407
FAX: (717) 783-5740

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1407 MT. ROYAL BOULEVARD
GLENSHAW, PA 15116
PHONE: (412) 487-6600
FAX: (412) 487-6607

February 17, 2012

The Honorable Michael Consedine
Insurance Commissioner
Pennsylvania Insurance Department
1345 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

Dear Commissioner Consedine,

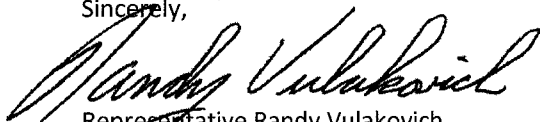
I am writing to you to express my support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark and the West Penn Allegheny Health System.

I strongly believe that this affiliation is essential to preserve West Penn Allegheny Health System and maintain provider choice in the Western Pennsylvania marketplace. Choice is critical, not only to allow consumers the ability to select their caregiver, but also to assure competition and value in the health care delivery system. Continued competition in the marketplace will go far to help control ever rising medical costs. Controlling costs is an important consideration of local employers who strive to provide quality affordable health care coverage for their employees.

Additionally, I believe that the proposed affiliation can help preserve the economy of Western Pennsylvania by ensuring that the nearly 11,000 employees of the West Penn Allegheny Health System continue to have stable employment. The region would be devastated if the system had to significantly downsize. The proposed affiliation seeks to preserve this valuable community resource for both patients and employees.

Because timing is so critical, I am asking that the state work hard to complete its thorough review and all necessary investigatory procedures in an appropriate and timely manner. The sooner the proposed affiliation is approved, the sooner the organizations can revitalize this health system to the benefit of the state and the region.

Sincerely,


Representative Randy Vulakovich
30th Legislative District

Cc: Governor Tom Corbett
Robert Brackbill, Chief, Company Licensing Division



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

COMMITTEES
Environmental Resources & Energy
Aging & Older Adult Services
Gaming Oversight
Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness

CAUCUSES
Alzheimer's
Autism
Bi-Partisan Reform
Firefighter's & Emergency Services
People with Intellectual Disabilities
Veterans

RECEIVED
Corporate & Financial Regulation

FEB 21 2012

**Pennsylvania
Insurance Department**

0083

04