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Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 3:44 PM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Subject: Response to Public Comment by Representative Frank Dermody
Attachments: Response to Public Comment from Representative Dermody.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment received by the Insurance Department from Representative Frank Dermody. I have copied Representative Dermody with the response by mail at the address appearing in the letterhead of his letter in support of the affiliation of Highmark Inc. and the West Penn Allegheny Health System.

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**BEFORE THE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Statement Regarding the Acquisition of Control of or Merger with Domestic Insurers:

Highmark Inc.; First Priority Life Insurance Company, Inc.; Gateway Health Plan, Inc.; Highmark Casualty Insurance Company; Highmark Senior Resources Inc.; HM Casualty Insurance Company; HM Health Insurance Company, d/b/a Highmark Health Insurance Company; HM Life Insurance Company; HMO of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc., d/b/a First Priority Health; Intercounty Health Plan, Inc.; Intercounty Hospitalization Plan, Inc.; Keystone Health Plan West, Inc.; United Concordia Companies, Inc.; United Concordia Dental Plans of Pennsylvania, Inc.; United Concordia Life and Health Insurance Company

By UPE, a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation

**Response of UPE to
Comment of State Representative Frank Dermody
Dated February 22, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Pennsylvania State Representative Frank Dermody dated February 22, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0122 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Representative Dermody has stated his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS") noting that the proposed affiliation is essential to preserve WPAHS and thereby maintain the region's access to top-ranked, quality medical services. Representative Dermody also notes that the affiliation will help ensure the continued employment of over 11,000 employees of the health system including physicians, nurses, technicians and support staff. Lastly, he adds that it is important to preserve this valuable community asset for the benefit of the citizens of the region.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Representative Dermody and believes that continued provider choice and competition is essential to preserving and stabilizing the health care market in the region. UPE considers this transaction to be critical to ensuring the continued vitality of WPAHS by delivering value, choice, and high-quality health care services to the Western Pennsylvania community.

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UPE would like to thank Representative Dermody for his comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: February 29, 2012

cc: Rep. Frank Dermody

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