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RECEIVED
Corporate & Financial Regulation

MAR 15 2012

Pennsylvania
Insurance Department

March 12, 2012

Robert Brackbill
Chief, Company Licensing Division
Pennsylvania Insurance Department
1345 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Proposed Affiliation of Highmark Inc. and West Penn Allegheny Health System

Dear Mr. Brackbill,

As a member of the Western Pennsylvania Community Partnership supporting West Penn Hospital, and a participant since the founding of the Partnership, I respectfully request that you consider this letter of support in favor of the above mentioned filing under review by your office.

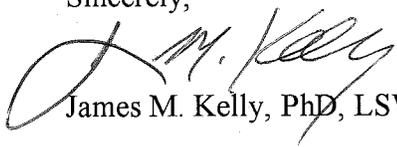
The Western Pennsylvania Hospital Community Partnership is a non-profit organization that was established in September 1991 to provide a forum for community and Hospital leadership to work together to understand and address health-related issues. Since its inception, the Community Partnership has addressed issues involving the health of residents of the City of Pittsburgh's East End neighborhoods. The Partnership's mission is to foster healthy communities, defined as those "in which all community members are empowered to affect the wellness, safety and living conditions of themselves, their families and their neighbors."

Our partnership includes various constituencies which support, service, work and use West Penn Hospital. The people of WPAHS --physicians, nurses, technicians and support staff -- provide excellent quality care 24/7 for our friends, families and colleagues. As WPAHS has struggled to survive, so have the Partnership member communities that rely upon the hospital's vitality.

Highmark has demonstrated its commitment to Bloomfield and the surrounding neighborhoods through the restoration of many clinical services to West Penn, including the Emergency Department. In turn, our confidence has been restored that when we need emergency care, the caring physicians, nurses and staff will be available in a state-of-the-art facility.

West Penn is our hospital and we support this affiliation. We believe that your review will conclude that expeditious approval of the proposed affiliation is the correct action for patients and providers in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,


James M. Kelly, PhD, LSW

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