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Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:27 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: costa@pasenate.com
Subject: Response to Comment Letter from Senator Jay Costa
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment in support of the affiliation received by the Insurance Department from Senator Costa. I am also copying Senator Costa with the response by email at the address in the heading of his comment letter to the Insurance Department

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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; Inter-County Health Plan, Inc.;
Inter-County 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 Senator Jay Costa
Dated March 13, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Pennsylvania State Senator Jay Costa received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on March 14, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0227 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Senator Costa 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 maintain provider choice in the region. Senator Costa also comments that the affiliation will help revitalize WPAHS and thereby ensure the continued employment of the nearly 12,000 employees of the health system living in the region. Lastly, he adds that preservation of this community asset will serve as a continued benefit to the region because it offers nationally acclaimed, innovative health care.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Senator Costa and believes that this transaction will ensure the continued vitality of WPAHS by delivering value, choice, and high-quality health care services to the Western Pennsylvania community. UPE agrees that maintaining continued provider choice and competition is essential to preserving and stabilizing the health care market in the Western Pennsylvania region.

UPE would like to thank Senator Costa for his comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: March 22, 2012

cc: Sen. Jay Costa