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Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:50 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Subject: Response to comment letter from James Hamilton
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment received by the Insurance Department from James Hamilton, a member of the Forbes Hospital Foundation. I am also copying Mr. Hamilton 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; 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 James Hamilton Received March 13, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from James Hamilton received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on March 13, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0235 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Mr. Hamilton, a member of the Forbes Hospital Foundation, has offered his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS") stating that the proposed affiliation will ensure the region's consumers have continued access to the high-quality health care that Forbes Regional Hospital has provided as a valued community asset for 30 years. Mr. Hamilton supports the affiliation because it will help the financially struggling WPAHS and ensure that the people of the region have continued access to quality care.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Mr. Hamilton and believes that this transaction is critical to ensuring the continued vitality of WPAHS so that it can continue to deliver value, choice, and high-quality health care services to the Western Pennsylvania community. UPE also finds it important to preserve this valued community asset for the people of the region.

UPE would like to thank Mr. Hamilton for his comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: March 22, 2012

cc: James Hamilton