

0279

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:47 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Subject: Response to Comment from Mitchell Swain
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment received by the Insurance Department from Mitchell Swain. I am also copying Mr. Swain 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 Mitch Swain Dated March 8, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Mitch Swain received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on March 12, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0275 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Mr. Swain has stated his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS") noting that it is important to not only preserve continued health care competition in order to stabilize rising health care costs but also to preserve the choice of physicians as to where to practice their professions. Additionally, Mr. Swain notes that preserving competition will help employers to be able to continue to provide quality health care to their employees.

UPE is in agreement with Mr. Swain and believes that this transaction will ensure continued vitality of the West Penn Allegheny Health System, maintain provider choice in our community, and help control rising medical costs. UPE believes that controlling rising medical costs will help patients and employers alike. The ultimate plan is to build a new integrated health system that will deliver value, choice, and high-quality health care services to the Western Pennsylvania community.

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

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: March 28, 2012

cc: Mitch Swain