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Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:55 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: CMoore@usw.org
Subject: Response to Comment from Leo Gerard, International President of the United Steelworkers
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 Leo W. Gerard, International President of the United Steelworkers. I am also copying Mr. Gerard's office with the response at the email address appearing in the email transmitting 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 Leo Gerard Dated March 22, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from the Leo W. Gerard received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on March 22, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0273 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Mr. Gerard, International President of the United Steelworkers, 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 continue to have access to high-quality health care and maintain provider choice which will ultimately help slow rising medical costs. Additionally, Mr. Gerard notes that the WPAHS affiliation will help ensure that the jobs of the 11,000 health system employees are preserved and lead to the potential for new construction and modernization of the facilities which will employ even more community residents.

UPE is in agreement with the comments by Mr. Gerard and believes that preserving provider choice and competition will stabilize the health care market throughout the region. UPE finds this transaction to be 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 would like to thank Mr. Gerard for his comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: March 28, 2012

cc: Leo W. Gerard