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SICKLE CELL SOCIETY, INC. • Murray-Irvis Genetic Disease Center
7643 FRANKSTOWN AVENUE • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15208-1623
EDUCATION • SCREENING • COUNSELING • TREATMENT • RESEARCH

NEDDIE C. HOLLIS, MSW, LCSW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • 412.371.0628 FAX 412.371.0713

March 21, 2012

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Corporate & Financial Regulation

MAR 23 2012

Pennsylvania
Insurance Department

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

Dear Mr. Brackbill:

On behalf of the Sickle Cell Society, Inc.'s Board of Directors and especially our sickle cell disease patients, this is a letter of support to preserve West Penn Allegheny Health System as a provider of choice for our patients.

For over the past twenty five years the Sickle Cell Society, Inc. has provided outpatient medical/psychosocial support services for over 250 patients. During this period, we were always able to provide our patients with a choice in their medical insurance coverage according to their medical needs. Since an individual has sickle cell disease for their entire life, it is very important, in fact imperative, that they have the opportunity to make a choice to obtain medical insurance support that will address their healthcare needs. Consequently, it is both a medical and financial necessity that sickle cell disease patients, most certainly, have access to more than one healthcare provider and more than one healthcare insurance company.

Therefore, and without hesitation, the Society and particularly our patients, most definitely support the preservation of West Penn Allegheny Health System as the provider of choice for our patients.

Sincerely,

Frederick D. Sams, DMD
President, Board of Directors