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Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 10:26 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: dfrankel@pahouse.net
Subject: Response to Public Comment Letter from Representative Dan Frankel
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 State Representative Dan Frankel. I am also copying Representative Frankel's office with the response by email.

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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 Representative Dan Frankel
Dated March 22, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Pennsylvania State Representative Dan Frankel dated March 22, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0288 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Representative Frankel 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 which has consistently ranked high based on important quality indicators. Representative Frankel also notes that the affiliation will help ensure the continued employment of the nearly 12,000 employees of the health system who live in Pittsburgh and surrounding communities.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Representative Frankel and believes that continued provider choice and competition is essential to preserving and stabilizing the health care market in the region.. UPE considers this transaction to be critical to ensuring the continued vitality of WPAHS by delivering value, choice, and high-quality health care services to the Western Pennsylvania community.

UPE would like to thank Representative Frankel for his comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 3, 2012 .

cc: Rep. Dan B. Frankel