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Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 10:00 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: Cara.Toman@mail.house.gov
Subject: Response to Public Comments from Representative Jason Altmire
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 U.S. Representative Jason Altmire. I am also copying Representative Altmire's office with the response at the email address appearing in the email transmitting 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 U.S. Representative Jason Altmire
Dated March 14, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from United States Representative Jason Altmire received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on March 15, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0248 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Representative Altmire 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 ensure the citizens of the region continued access to quality care close to home. Additionally, Representative Altmire comments that Allegheny Valley Hospital has been a valued community asset for over 100 years and that it is critical to preserve this institution not only for patients, but for the over 1,400 employees who work there to support their families.

UPE agrees with the comments of Representative Altmire and believes that this transaction will ensure the continued vitality of WPAHS by delivering value, choice, and high-quality health care services to the Western Pennsylvania community. UPE thinks it is important to preserve this valued community asset for the people of the region.

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

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 3, 2012

cc: Rep. Jason Altmire