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March 27, 2012

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Corporate & Financial Regulation

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

Pennsylvania
Insurance Department

Dear Mr. Brackbill:

I support the proposed affiliation of Highmark and West Penn Allegheny Health System.

I feel this way because:

- I support improving the health of the people in the western Pennsylvania region
 - As a Nurse Educator, taking care of patients is what healthcare is all about
- I support consumer choice, access to health care and reigning in health-care costs in southwestern Pennsylvania
 - The monopoly of a local health care system stifles competition and limits choices for consumers. If "they" are the only "game in town", how can people have choice?
- I support delivering high quality and high-value health care
 - WPAHS has a fine reputation throughout Allegheny County. And this is from someone who works in another health care system in another county!
- I support protecting community charitable assets and preserving the jobs of 11,000 or more West Penn Allegheny Health System employees
 - In these challenging economic times, preserving jobs of local workers is of the utmost importance
- I support a partnership that is good for western Pennsylvania and sets an example of how to improve the U.S. health-care system
 - Collaboration and community service are top priorities of WPAHS
- I support enabling dedicated employees and physicians to continue to deliver the high-quality care that WPAHS hospitals are nationally recognized for today
 - You know how loyal Pennsylvanians are!
- I support revitalizing West Penn Hospital and investing in Allegheny General Hospital, Allegheny Valley Hospital, Canonsburg General Hospital and Forbes Regional Hospital

For these reasons, I ask you to approve the Highmark-WPAHS affiliation agreement as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Laura Guyaux, RN, BSN, MEd.
Nurse Educator

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