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Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 9:26 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Subject: Response to Public Comment from Celia Hindes
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment received by the Insurance Department from Celia Hindes, Executive Director of Variety the Children's Charity. I am also copying Ms. Hindes with the response by mail at the address appearing in the letterhead of her letter in support of the affiliation of Highmark Inc. and the West Penn Allegheny Health System.

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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 Celia Hindes Dated March 22, 2012

UPE is responding to the comment from Celia A. Hindes received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on March 27, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0286 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Ms. Hindes, Executive Director of Variety the Children's Charity, has offered her support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS") stating that preserving affordable health care in the region is critical for families with children with disabilities as they typically have more medical visits which can tend to drain their limited financial resources. She supports the proposed affiliation because having a competitive hospital provider market will help hold down prices and ensure there are adequate facilities to meet health care demand.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Ms. Hindes and finds the proposed affiliation of Highmark and WPAHS will ensure the continued vitality of the health system for the benefit of people living in the communities where these facilities are located. The ultimate plan is to build a new integrated health system that will deliver value, choice, and high-quality health care services to the citizens of Western Pennsylvania.

UPE would like to thank Ms. Hindes for her comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 9, 2012

cc: Celia A. Hindes, CFRE