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Brackbill, Robert

From: Janet [janetscullion@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 5:22 PM
To: Brackbill, Robert
Subject: Letter of Support for West Penn Hospital
Attachments: West Penn Hospital letter of support.pdf

Dear Mr. Brackbill:
Please see the attached letter of support for West Penn Hospital. Thank you for this opportunity.

Warmest Regards,
Janet

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March 16, 2012

Robert Brackbill
Chief, Company Licensing Division
Pennsylvania Insurance Department
1345 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120
rbrackbill@pa.gov

Dear Mr. Brackbill,

As a first-generation Italian American Bloomfield resident, and the executive director of the Bloomfield Preservation and Heritage Society, I am proud to support the West Penn Allegheny Health System (WPAHS) affiliation with Highmark Inc., which is under review by your office.

And as President of the Bloomfield Citizens Council, on behalf of the citizens of Bloomfield I respectfully request that you consider this letter of support.

West Penn Hospital has been the heart and soul of Bloomfield since the 1912. The hospital's importance is on display at the Bloomfield Preservation and Heritage Society Headquarters. For a hundred years, the residents of Bloomfield have worked, received care and invaluable community benefit from West Penn Hospital. West Penn has taken care of us for generations through medical care and employment. **The WPAHS-Highmark affiliation will preserve important community assets and their non-profit status.**

Bloomfield is a neighborhood with a large business district. We know what competition means and we know we must preserve WPAHS to maintain provider choices for consumers and to assure competition among viable health care delivery systems. If this transaction is not approved, there will be no competition among providers. Consequently, physicians will have little to no choice of where or how they practice medicine and potentially leave the region to practice elsewhere; and costs will rise. If costs rise, the whole community suffers. Employers will struggle to continue to provide benefits. Ultimately, patients will go without needed care.

For these reasons, on behalf of the BCC and the Bloomfield Preservation Society, I support this transaction and believe that your review will conclude that expeditious approval of the proposed WPAHS-Highmark affiliation is the correct action for patients and providers in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Janet Cercone Scullion
Executive Director, Bloomfield Preservation & Heritage Society
President, Bloomfield Citizen's Council President