

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 9:41 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: psnyder@co.greene.pa.us; atrader@co.greene.pa.us; cmorris@co.greene.pa.us
Subject: Response to Public Comment from the Greene County Board of Commissioners
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 the Greene County Board of Commissioners. I am also copying the members of the Board 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 the Greene County Board of Commissioners
Dated March 26, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Greene County Commissioners Pam Snyder, Archie Trader, and Charles J. Morris dated March 26, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0336 on the Highmark/West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

The Greene County Board has expressed its support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS") noting that the proposed affiliation will ensure provider choice and efficiently for residents and local employers. The Board further states that the proposed affiliation will expand access to physicians in a cost effective manner.

UPE is in agreement with the Board's comments and believes that this transaction will ensure the continued vitality of WPAHS by delivering value, choice, and high-quality healthcare services to the Western Pennsylvania community. UPE agrees that maintaining continued provider choice and competition is essential to preserving and stabilizing the healthcare market in the region and the Commonwealth.

UPE would like to thank the Greene County Board of Commissioners for its comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 19, 2012

cc: Greene County Board of Commissioners
Pam Snyder, Chairman
Archie Trader
Charles J. Morris