

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 9:28 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: Brad.Grantz@mail.house.gov
Subject: Response to Public Comment from U.S. Representative Tim Murphy
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 United States Representative Tim Murphy. I am also copying Representative Murphy's office 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 U.S. Representative Tim Murphy
Dated April 2, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from United States Representative Tim Murphy dated April 2, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0334 on the Highmark/West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Congressman Murphy has expressed his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS"). Congressman Murphy highlights his own efforts to sustain WPAHS as a vital economic asset in the community. He also emphasizes the value to consumers of preserving competition in the insurance and delivery markets that this affiliation will protect.

UPE is in agreement with Congressman Murphy'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.

UPE would like to thank Congressman Murphy for his comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 19, 2012

cc: U.S. Representative Tim Murphy