

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 9:25 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: lstreiff@tuckerlaw.com
Subject: Response to Public Comment from the Northside/Northshore Chamber of Commerce
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 Northside/Northshore Chamber of Commerce. I am also copying Mr. Eric Schumann, President of the Board for the Northside/Northshore Chamber of Commerce, with the response sent to his office 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 Northside Chamber of Commerce
Dated April 4, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Eric M. Schumann, Board President of the Northside Chamber of Commerce, dated April 4, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0332 on the Highmark/West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

The Board of Directors of the Northside Chamber of Commerce has expressed its support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS"). Mr. Schumann highlights the Board's partnership with Allegheny General Hospital ("AGH") and the shared mission of promoting constructive economic influences in the community. He further emphasizes AGH's role in providing community health and development programs as well as access to high-quality healthcare for area residents.

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.

UPE would like to thank the Northside Chamber of Commerce for its comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 19, 2012

cc: Northside/Northshore Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
Eric Schumann, President
Sean Carmody
Paul Hoyson
Peter Konczakowski
Juan Garrett
Aaron Aldrich
Debra Caplan
Erin Conley
Del Dausman
George Fyke
Jennifer Gottron
John Graf
Mark Masterson
Colleen Myers
Scott Pipitone
Rev. Ken Turnbull