

0456

Brackbill, Robert

From: Mele, James [JMele@paceschool.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2012 10:13 AM
To: Brackbill, Robert
Subject: Public Comment on Highmark - West Penn Allegheny Health System affiliation
Attachments: Highmark WPAHS Public Comment.pdf

Mr. Brackbill,

Please accept attached public comment on Highmark WPAHS affiliation.

Thank you

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Mr. Robert Brackbill
Chief, Company Licensing Division
Pennsylvania Insurance Department
1345 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Highmark Affiliation with West Penn Allegheny Health System

Dear Mr. Brackbill:

I am writing to you to express my support of the proposed affiliation of Highmark and the West Penn Allegheny Health System.

I strongly believe the affiliation is essential to preserve choices for consumers and competition among providers. Consumer choice must be preserved by ensuring the survival of the West Penn Allegheny Health System. If choice is not preserved, it will result in higher health care costs for the region. Real competition among viable health care systems is critical to improving quality, expanding access and containing health care costs.

In addition to preserving choice and competition and controlling costs, the affiliation will greatly benefit the local economy by ensuring the livelihood of the thousands of employees of the West Penn Allegheny Healthy System and the businesses that provide goods and services to the health system.

In summary, I am asking for you to take action to approve the affiliation between Highmark and the West Penn Allegheny Health System.

Respectfully,


James M. Mele
Chief Financial Officer

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