

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 11:06 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: tdeluca@pahouse.net
Subject: Response to Public Comment from Representative Anthony DeLuca
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 Representative Anthony DeLuca. I am also copying Representative DeLuca'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 State Representative Anthony DeLuca
Dated April 17, 2012**

UPE is responding to the testimony submitted by Pennsylvania State Representative Anthony DeLuca, received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department April 9, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0429 on the Highmark/West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Representative DeLuca has stated his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS"), emphasizing the significance of the transaction in sustaining one of the region's largest employers. Representative DeLuca also highlights WPAHS's strong track record of providing high-quality care and notes that preserving provider and consumer choice ultimately leads to better patient outcomes.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Representative DeLuca and believes that this transaction will ensure the continued vitality of WPAHS, maintaining a vital economic and community asset for Western Pennsylvanians.

UPE would like to thank Representative DeLuca for his comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 19, 2012

cc: Rep. Anthony DeLuca