

0700

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 10:44 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: pearlreapaf@comcast.net
Subject: Response to Public Comment from Peg Bittner
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment received by the Insurance Department from Peg Bittner. I am also copying Ms. Bittner with the response by email.

TAX ADVICE DISCLAIMER: Any federal tax advice contained in this communication (including attachments) was not intended or written to be used, and it cannot be used, by you for the purpose of (1) avoiding any penalty that may be imposed by the Internal Revenue Service or (2) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any transaction or matter addressed herein. If you would like such advice, please contact us.

Above email is for intended recipient only and may be confidential and protected by attorney/client privilege.

If you are not the intended recipient, please advise the sender immediately.

Unauthorized use or distribution is prohibited and may be unlawful.

03

**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 Peg Bittner Dated April 19, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Peg Bittner dated April 19, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0628 on the Highmark/West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Ms. Bittner has expressed concerns about the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS"). Ms. Bittner has reservations about the future management of WPAHS, however understands the importance of preserving WPAHS as a stable health system and community asset.

UPE shares Ms. Bittner's desire to see WPAHS thrive in coming years and is committed to providing the requisite administrative and operational support to restore WPAHS to financial health. UPE believes the proposed affiliation will provide the support and direction necessary to achieve that goal, and that, as a result, Western Pennsylvanians will continue to receive the highest quality health care at an affordable price.

UPE would like to thank Ms. Bittner for her comments.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: May 16, 2012

cc: Peg Bittner