

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 10:48 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: robertvolk2@aol.com
Subject: Response to Public Comment from Robert Volk
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee,

Attached is a response to the public comment received by the Insurance Department from Robert Volk. I am providing Mr. Volk with a copy of the response with this email.

Ron Chronister

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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 Robert Volk**

UPE is responding to the comment from Robert Volk, received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department January 24, 2013. The comment is numbered as Document 1239 on the Highmark/West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Mr. Volk states his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS"), noting that this affiliation represents Highmark's commitment to sustaining a vital economic asset in the community. Mr. Volk also understands that preserving competition in the health insurance and provider markets will lead to better patient care at more favorable prices.

UPE is in agreement with Mr. Volk's comments. UPE believes the proposed affiliation will preserve choice in health care, leading to better medical outcomes, while providing economic stability to WPAHS and its 11,000 employees.

UPE would like to thank Mr. Volk for his comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: February 12, 2013

cc: Robert Volk