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Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2013 11:21 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: fdermody@pahouse.net
Subject: Response to Public Comment from Representative Dermody
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee,

Attached please find a response to the public comment received by the Insurance Department from Representative Frank Dermody in support of the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. and WPAHS. I am providing Representative Dermody with a copy of this 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 the Representative Frank Dermody Dated March 13, 2013**

UPE is responding to the comment from Representative Frank Dermody, Democratic Leader of the Pennsylvania General Assembly dated March 13, 2013. The comment is numbered as Document 1328 on the Highmark/West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Representative Dermody has expressed his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS").

Representative Dermody recognizes Highmark's commitment to the affiliation and what it means to constituents who depend on WPAHS for high quality affordable health care, as well as what it means for employment and economic stability in southwestern Pennsylvania. Representative Dermody points out that the recent agreement Highmark and WPAHS have reached with bondholders clears a significant hurdle in ensuring the financial solvency of the WPAHS system and acknowledges the importance of moving the affiliation forward in a timely fashion

UPE is in agreement with Representative Dermody'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 and the Commonwealth.

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

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 22, 2013

cc: Representative Frank Dermody