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Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2013 11:23 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: wmicchalski@aftpa.org
Subject: Reponse to Public Comment from AFT Pennsylvania
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee,

Attached please find UPE's response to the public comment received by the Insurance Department from Walter Michalski, Staff Representative of AFT Pennsylvania. I am providing Mr. Michalski 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; Intercounty Health Plan, Inc.;
Intercounty 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 Walter M. Michalski Dated April 19, 2013**

UPE is responding to the comment from Walter M. Michalski received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department ("Department") on April 19, 2013. The comment is numbered as Document 1371 on the Highmark/West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Department website.

Mr. Michalski, Staff Representative of AFT Pennsylvania, has offered his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System, Inc. ("WPAHS"). In particular, he notes that the proposed affiliation will help to preserve the nearly 12,000 jobs at WPAHS -- 2,000 of which are union positions. Mr. Michalski also notes that the affiliation will allow a high-quality medical provider to continue operating in western Pennsylvania. Additionally, he emphasizes that the preservation of the health system is critical to ensure meaningful access and competition in the health care market of western Pennsylvania.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Mr. Michalski and finds the proposed affiliation of Highmark and WPAHS will help to ensure the continued vitality of the health care system and help preserve jobs for the people living in the communities where these facilities are located. UPE believes it is important to preserve these valued community assets for the people of the western Pennsylvania.

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

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 24, 2013
cc: Walter M. Michalski