



MONROEVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 4

4370 Northern Pike • Monroeville, PA 15146

(412) 372-4404

April 15, 2013

Mr. Michael Consedine, Insurance Commissioner
Pennsylvania Insurance Department
1326 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Mr. Consedine:

I am writing on behalf of Monroeville Volunteer Fire Co. #4 and Monroeville Fire Dept. EMS agencies in Monroeville, PA - Allegheny County. I serve as the Chief for both of the aforementioned entities. I would like just a small piece of your valuable time to discuss our perspective on the potential merger between the West Penn Allegheny Health System (WPAHS) and the Highmark insurance provider.

First and foremost, we certainly were delighted to hear of this potential merger back in the spring of 2012 and recognized that it could prove very beneficial at many levels to Monroeville and surrounding Communities. This merger can bring strength and support to our Community & the many others in our region.

As you may recall, UPMC has recently built a new medical facility approximately one mile from WPAHS – Forbes Regional Hospital, so as you could imagine, competition for all aspects of health care are right in our front yard. I felt compelled to mention the proximity of the two hospitals as the merger would certainly strengthen the WPAHS which is constantly being challenged by UPMC. We, in Monroeville, view this as healthy competition as it allows individuals to have a continued choice in health care. It also gives way to the ever increasing costs of health care by leading the two systems to compete financially.

The quality of medical care is certainly another talking point in relation to the potential merger. With the help of Highmark, the WPAHS will be able to continue and most likely improve the quality of care that it provides to all that seek their services; not only at the medical level, but many others as well, such as research, etc. As you are aware, the quality of care is what keeps patients and their families coming back to the WPAHS and with Highmark as a partner, care can only get better.

I truly wish the President of the United States could figure out how to create jobs and careers for those that are out of work, but it appears that the government continues to struggle with this issue. With Highmark being one of the largest employers nationally, together they could potentially become the leading health care employer in our region. This would hopefully get a

reaction out of the UPMC system and encourage them to become more competitive in the job market. It is simply a win, win for those seeking employment.

In closing, we, here in Monroeville, see the potential growth of our region in many ways should this merger occur. We ask you to strongly consider this merger with your most undivided attention and move the Pittsburgh area to the next level in the delivery of continued quality health care.

Thank you for your time and efforts to move this merger forward.

Yours in Service:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott A. Feyes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" being more prominent.

Scott A. Feyes
Chief