

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2013 3:13 PM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: nsbducky@me.com
Subject: Response to Public Comment from Nathan Bennett
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee,

Attached please find a response to the public comment received by the Insurance Department from Nathan Bennett. I am providing Mr. Bennett 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 Nathan Bennett Dated April 12, 2013**

UPE is responding to the comment from Nathan Bennett dated April 12, 2013.

Mr. Bennett has stated his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System, Inc. ("WPAHS") noting that the proposed affiliation will preserve much needed health care competition in the region. Additionally, he emphasizes that a second viable integrated delivery network (IDN) will help to keep consumer health care costs down.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Mr. Bennett and finds that the proposed affiliation of Highmark and WPAHS will help to ensure the continued vitality of a health system that benefits the people living and working in the communities where these facilities are located. UPE also believes that the proposed affiliation will result in greater consumer choice and industry collaboration leading to more cost effective and patient-centered care.

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

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 25, 2013

cc: Nathan Bennett