

Steamfitters

LOCAL UNION #449

1407

Kenneth J. Broadbent, Business Manager
Joseph M. Little, Secretary - Treasurer
Michael M. Leaf, President



William E. Beardsley, Jr., Business Agent
Martin J. Noone III, Business Agent
Regis P. Ryan, Business Agent

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Corporate & Financial Regulation

April 16, 2013

APR 19 2013

Robert Brackbill (Chief)
Company Licensing Division
Insurance Department
1345 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Pennsylvania
Insurance Department

Dear Mr. Brackbill:

I am Chairman of the Trust Funds, including health coverage, for Steamfitters Local Union #449 representing approximately fifteen hundred (1,500) families in Pittsburgh and South Western Pennsylvania. I strongly recommend the affiliation of Highmark with the West Penn Allegheny Health System. It is critical to our region and my members for a number of reasons.

Competition when it comes to health care, will help keep down skyrocketing costs and provide better service than having a single monopolized provider such as UPMC. Consumers should also be afforded the right of choice when it comes to choosing a provider whether it is a particular Hospital or Physician.

At a time when jobs are at a premium it would be a devastating blow to approximately twelve thousand (12,000) people that stand to lose their jobs if this proposed affiliation is not approved. The families of those employees that would be terminated would feel the pain as well. The spin off to community vendors of all facets by this occurrence will suffer the loss of income from parking, housing, restaurants, entertainment, and retail, just to name a few.

Neither South Western Pennsylvania nor the state of Pennsylvania can afford to let the West Penn Allegheny Health System go extinct.

Please do the right thing by the state's constituents and approve this affiliation with Highmark.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Little
Secretary - Treasurer

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