

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 3:34 PM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Subject: Response to County Commissioner Kopas Comment Letter
Attachments: Kopas Public Comment.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment received by the Insurance Department from Westmoreland County Commissioner Ted Kopas. I have copied Commissioner Kopas with the response by mail at the address appearing in the letterhead of his letter in support of the affiliation of Highmark Inc. and the West Penn Allegheny Health System.

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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 Ted Kopas Dated February 22, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Ted Kopas, Westmoreland County Commissioner, dated February 22, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0120 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Mr. Kopas has written to show his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS") noting that the proposed affiliation will help transform the market into one that reduces costs, improves quality, and creates a better customer experience. As county commissioner, Mr. Kopas also states that the affiliation will greatly benefit the local economy by protecting the livelihood of thousands of Western Pennsylvanians who are employees of the health system. Finally, he notes that the county along with other local employers struggle to provide their employees with quality affordable health care coverage and that continued choice and competition in the region will stabilize the region's healthcare costs.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Mr. Kopas and believes that this transaction will ensure the continued vitality of WPAHS so that it may continue to deliver value, choice, and high-quality health care services to the Western Pennsylvania community. UPE believes that continued provider choice and competition will help

preserve and stabilize the health care market in the region helping to continue to make quality health care affordable.

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

UPE

120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: February 29, 2012

cc: Ted Kopas