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**Bybee, Cressinda**

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**From:** Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 3:57 PM  
**To:** Bybee, Cressinda  
**Cc:** darlene.harris@city.pittsburgh.pa.us  
**Subject:** Response to Public Comment from Pittsburgh City Council President Harris  
**Attachments:** Response to Public Comment from Ms. Harris.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment received by the Insurance Department from Darlene Harris, President of the Pittsburgh City Council. I am also copying Ms. Harris with the response by email at the address appearing in her 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 Darlene Harris Dated February 22, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Pittsburgh City Council President Darlene M. Harris dated February 22, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0152 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Ms. Harris has offered her support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. (“Highmark”) and West Penn Allegheny Health System (“WPAHS”) noting that the proposed affiliation is crucial to maintain the region’s access to a valued community asset. Ms. Harris notes that WPAHS benefits and enriches the region through its numerous outreach, employment and business initiatives. Additionally, she notes that preservation of WPAHS will ensure the region’s consumers continued choice of their health-care provider.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Ms. Harris and believes that preserving provider choice and competition will stabilize the health care market in the region. UPE regards this transaction as critical to ensuring the continued vitality of WPAHS by delivering value, choice, and high-quality health care services to the Western Pennsylvania community.

UPE would like to thank Ms. Harris for her comments and support.

**UPE**

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120 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: February 29, 2012

cc: Darlene M. Harris

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