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Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 8:51 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Subject: Response to Public Comment from Representative Dom Costa
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment received by the Insurance Department from Representative Dom Costa. I am also copying Representative Costa 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 State Representative Dom Costa
Dated February 28, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Pennsylvania State Representative Dom Costa received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on March 1, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0171 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Representative Costa has offered his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS") stating that the proposed affiliation will help support the acclaimed WPAHS and allow customers continued access to the same personalized care they have come to expect. Additionally, he comments that it will provide security to the nearly 12,000 WPAHS employees who rely on the health system for their continued livelihood.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Representative Costa and believes that the proposed affiliation of Highmark and WPAHS is essential to ensuring the continued vitality of WPAHS and access to the services provided by the health system to the people of Western Pennsylvania.

UPE would like to thank Representative Cost for his comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: March 8, 2012

cc: Rep. Dom Costa