

0201

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 8:46 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: ldickerson@verizon.net
Subject: Response to Public Comment from Linda Dickerson
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment received by the Insurance Department from Linda Dickerson. I am also copying Ms. Dickerson with the response by email at the address in the email transmitting Ms. Dickerson's comment to the Insurance Department

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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 Linda Dickerson Dated February 29, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Linda Dickerson received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on February 29, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0173 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Ms. Dickerson has offered her support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS") citing that the proposed affiliation will preserve consumer choice, encourage competition, lower costs, and ensure higher quality of care. Additionally, she states that it will help revitalize WPAHS which has been identified as one of the top-performing healthcare systems in the country.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Ms. Dickerson and finds the proposed affiliation of Highmark and WPAHS critical to ensuring the continued vitality of WPAHS and preserving choice and access to the health care services it provides to the people of Western Pennsylvania. UPE thinks it is important to preserve this valued community asset for the people of the community.

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

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: March 8, 2012

cc: Linda Dickerson