

0248

Brackbill, Robert

From: Toman, Cara [Cara.Toman@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:25 PM
To: Brackbill, Robert
Subject: Altmire Support Letter
Attachments: WPAHS PA Insurance Dept Support 03.14.2012 - Altmire.pdf

Mr. Brackbill,

Attached please find a letter from Congressman Altmire to the Pennsylvania Insurance Department in support of timely approval of the Highmark-WPAHS affiliation. Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thank you,
Cara

Cara Toman
Legislative Director
Rep. Jason Altmire (PA-04)
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Please sign up for Congressman Altmire's e-newsletter at www.altmire.house.gov.

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COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 14, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Brackbill:

I write to urge the Pennsylvania Insurance Department to quickly approve the proposed Highmark-West Penn Allegheny Health System (WPAHS) affiliation. This transaction will ensure financial stability and choice in hospitals and providers for people throughout western Pennsylvania and its approval should proceed without delay.

I am honored to represent the people and services of the Allegheny Valley Hospital (AVH), one of five hospitals that make up the WPAHS, and can speak to its importance to the community. For over 100 years, AVH has cared for residents of the Alle-Kiski Valley through a broad array of programs, including medical and surgical services, inpatient psychiatric and geriatric psychiatric care, cardiology, orthopaedics, and cancer care. In addition to the 228-bed hospital, AVH operates outpatient care centers in nearby communities that provide a full range of diagnostic services in easy to access, convenient locations.

The proposed Highmark affiliation is welcome news on many fronts, particularly in the Alle-Kiski Valley region. Highmark and WPAHS have a shared goal of ensuring that patients and their families across western Pennsylvania receive care close to home and only need to travel for the most complex care provided at tertiary hospitals, such as AGH.

Despite struggling to achieve financial stability over the past twelve years, AVH and WPAHS have responded to community healthcare needs with significant facility upgrades and programmatic expansions. Recent projects that have been supported through public investments and private philanthropy include a new emergency room that opened in 2010, an accredited chest pain center, a stroke-telemedicine program, and a low vision rehabilitation center. Clinical collaboration with specialists at Allegheny General, West Penn, and other hospitals across the WPAHS has been a cornerstone to delivering advanced care to patients close to home.

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On behalf of the over 1,400 employees as AVH, as well as the individuals, families, and businesses that benefit from the care they provide, I urge the Pennsylvania Insurance Department to move forward with timely approval of the proposed Highmark-WPAHS transaction.

Sincerely,


Jason Altmire