

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 10:22 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: HNFerris@aol.com
Subject: Response to Public Comment from Harris Ferris
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment in support of the affiliation received by the Insurance Department from Harris Ferris, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Ballet. I am also copying Mr. Ferris with the response by email at the address appearing in the transmittal of his comments 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 Harris Ferris Dated March 23, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Harris N. Ferris received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on March 23, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0277 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Mr. Ferris, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, has offered his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS") emphasizing that health care competition in the regions must be preserved in order to ensure patient and physician choice. Additionally, he notes that WPAHS employs over 11,000 and preserving these jobs is critical to the region.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Mr. Ferris and believes that the proposed affiliation of Highmark and WPAHS will ensure continued provider choice which will help promote high-quality affordable health care for the people of Western Pennsylvania. UPE also finds it imperative that the jobs of the over 11,000 WPAHS employees be preserved.

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

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 3, 2012

cc: Harris N. Ferris