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**Bybee, Cressinda**

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**From:** Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2012 10:07 AM  
**To:** Bybee, Cressinda  
**Cc:** LBUC@netzero.com  
**Subject:** Response to Public Comment from Andrew J. Lecce, Executive Director  
**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 Andrew Lecce, Executive Director of the Lower Bloomfield UNITY Council. I am also copying Mr. Lecce with the response at the email address appearing in the letterhead of his comment letter 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; Inter-County Health Plan, Inc.;  
Inter-County 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 Andrew Lecce Dated March 12, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Andrew Lecce received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on March 15, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0250 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Mr. Lecce, Executive Director of the Lower Bloomfield UNITY Council, has stated his overwhelming support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS"). He writes that this longstanding community asset is of the utmost importance to the local residents not only for the jobs it provides, but for the critical care and community support it offers.

UPE is in agreement with Mr. Lecce and believes that this transaction is critical to ensuring the continued vitality of the WPAHS and maintaining access to healthcare in the community. The ultimate plan is to build a new integrated health system that will deliver value, choice, and high-quality health care services to the citizens of Western Pennsylvania.

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

**UPE**  
120 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 3, 2012

cc: Andrew Lecce