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**Brackbill, Robert**

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**From:** Matthew Barron [matthew.barron@pittsburghpa.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 3:10 PM  
**To:** Brackbill, Robert  
**Subject:** Highmark/West Penn Allegheny Health System Affiliation  
**Attachments:** 03 14 2012 WPAHS Highmark Affiliation.pdf

Mr. Brackbill -

Please find attached a letter of strong support for the Highmark/WPAHS affiliation from Councilman William Peduto. Please feel free to contact our office should you have any questions.

Best,

Matthew Barron  
Policy Director  
Office of Councilman William Peduto  
414 Grant Street  
510 City County Building  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
(412) 255-2133

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**WILLIAM PEDUTO**  
MEMBER OF COUNCIL, CITY OF PITTSBURGH  
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES



March 14, 2012

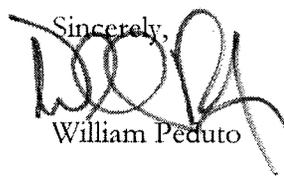
Robert Brackbill  
Pennsylvania Insurance Department  
Company Licensing Division  
1345 Strawberry Square  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. Brackbill:

The Western Pennsylvania Hospital stands at both the heart of my City Council district and at the heart of Pittsburgh's Bloomfield neighborhood. West Penn provides employment for hundreds of residents of my district and provides critical care for thousands of patients throughout the Southwestern Pennsylvania region. It is a pillar of the community and an irreplaceable economic engine for Bloomfield and the surrounding neighborhoods. Its collapse would be nothing short of a catastrophe.

It is for this reason that I write today to urge you to approve the affiliation of the West Penn Allegheny Health System (WPAHS) – including West Penn Hospital – with Highmark. Highmark has shown an undeniable commitment to providing the capital for critically-needed improvements to WPAHS facilities and this affiliation will help to create more competition among providers and more choice for patients and physicians within the Southwestern Pennsylvania region.

As the Chair of Human Resources for Pittsburgh City Council I need to be able to work with the City's Department of Personnel and Civil Service to provide real choice in employee healthcare and absent the survival of the WPAHS through an affiliation with Highmark I will be unable to do so. Pittsburgh needs WPAHS and it needs West Penn Hospital. Please approve this affiliation for the good of our City and our region.

Sincerely,  
  
William Peduto

Cc: Kenneth R. Melani, M.D., Highmark  
Dan Onorato, Highmark  
Christopher Olivia, M.D., Highmark  
Keith T. Ghezzi, M.D., West Penn Allegheny Health System  
Peg McCormick-Barron, West Penn Allegheny Health System  
Duke Rupert, The Western Pennsylvania Hospital  
Hermaine Delaney, 32BJ SEIU Western Pennsylvania



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