

Brackbill, Robert

From: Bolden, Karen [kbolden@eatnpark.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2012 2:35 PM
To: Brackbill, Robert
Subject: comments for hearing
Attachments: Highmark-West Penn.doc

Attached are the comments for Lisa Harris who will present on Tuesday.

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'm Lisa Harris, Director of Benefits and Compensation for Eat'n Park Hospitality Group. Eat'n Park Hospitality Group is a portfolio of foodservice concepts focused on personalized dining and is comprised of 72 Eat'n Park restaurants, two neighborhood bistro concepts, 36 Parkhurst Dining Services accounts and over 50 Cura Hospitality accounts. We also have an e-commerce division called SmielyCookie.com which is an online gourmet cookie delivery company.

At the heart of Eat'n Park Hospitality Group are more than 9,000 team members who serve guests across Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and Virginia. Our team members are committed to providing friendly, attentive service to our guests. As a company we are committed to providing the same friendly and attentive service to our team members.

Part of that service includes health care, which means we want our team members (and guests) to have access to competitively priced health care services. A monopoly of the regions health care services does not serve our community well, however a region with choice does.

More healthcare options for our region means better health care for everyone. It encourages doctors and specialists to remain in this area. It also increases competition, which is critical to improving quality, expanding access and keeping health care costs low.

A level playing field, where health systems accept all insurers without penalty or prejudice, simply makes economic and moral sense.

We believe that the Highmark-West Penn Allegheny alliance would be a logical and positive step for the region, because it would broaden the scope of available healthcare options, help keep health care costs affordable, and ensure the benefits of open, and fair competition.

For our employees and our guests, we request the Pennsylvania Insurance Department to approve the proposed affiliation between Highmark and the West Penn Allegheny Health System.

Thank you very much.