

0871

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2012 11:16 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Subject: Response to Public Comment from Audrey Peterson
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment received by the Insurance Department from Audrey Peterson. I am also copying Ms. Peterson with the response by mail sent to the address in her comment letter.

TAX ADVICE DISCLAIMER: Any federal tax advice contained in this communication (including attachments) was not intended or written to be used, and it cannot be used, by you for the purpose of (1) avoiding any penalty that may be imposed by the Internal Revenue Service or (2) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any transaction or matter addressed herein. If you would like such advice, please contact us.

Above email is for intended recipient only and may be confidential and protected by attorney/client privilege.

If you are not the intended recipient, please advise the sender immediately.

Unauthorized use or distribution is prohibited and may be unlawful.

03

**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 Audrey P. Peterson**

UPE is responding to the comment from Audrey P. Peterson received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department August 16, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0864 on the Highmark/West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Audrey Peterson states her support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS"), noting that this affiliation will preserve competition in the health insurance market in Western Pennsylvania. Ms. Peterson recognizes that a positive competitive environment will provide higher quality health care options for consumers at more favorable prices.

UPE is in agreement with Ms. Peterson's comments. UPE believes the proposed affiliation, while sustaining a valuable community asset, will also secure the level of access to health care that the people of Western Pennsylvania have come to expect at the most affordable price.

UPE would like to thank Ms. Peterson for her comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: August 20, 2012

cc: Audrey P. Peterson