

April 17, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Brackbill,

I write this letter to strongly encourage you to approve the West Penn Allegheny Health System (WPAHS) affiliation with Highmark Inc. This is a matter of great significance to our region.

As the Business Manager of a local school district the continued struggle over controlling costs is no longer an annual or monthly issue, it has become a daily issue. School districts are making decisions on eliminating staff and programming because of budgetary constraints.

If this agreement does not get approved, it is clearly evident the higher premiums and (general health care costs) in our region will become the norm. There would only be one single provider serving this region. Preserving (WPAHS) is essential to ensuring our region has competition and choice when it comes to health care. If an approval is not granted, it will not only affect the jobs of those in health care but will certainly have a trickle down effect on area school districts and businesses impacting their abilities to control costs.

I strongly encourage that you department approve this agreement between Highmark and (WPAHS) as a way to continue to offer this region affordable health care. Your full consideration of this important matter will be recognized and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Joseph Ambrosini
Business Manager
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New Castle, PA 16101

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