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**Bybee, Cressinda**

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**From:** Chronister, Ronald <ronald.chronister@bipc.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 22, 2014 2:19 PM  
**To:** Bybee, Cressinda  
**Cc:** joeroewb@verizon.net  
**Subject:** Response to Public Comment from Rosemary Schwab  
**Attachments:** HBG1\_GENERAL-1903499-v1-Response to Public Comment from R. Schwab.DOC

Ms. Bybee,

Attached please find Highmark Inc.'s response to the public comment received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department from Rosemary Schwab. I am providing Ms. Schwab with a copy of the response with this email.

Ron Chronister

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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:

Hospital Service Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania, d/b/a Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania;

First Priority Life Insurance Company, Inc.;

HMO of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc. d/b/a First Priority Health

By

Highmark Inc., a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation

**Response of Highmark Inc. to  
Comments of Rosemary Schwab Dated November 4, 2014**

Highmark Inc. is responding to the comment from Rosemary Schwab received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on November 7, 2014. The comment is numbered as Document 0763 on the Highmark/ BCNEPA Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Ms. Schwab states that she is a former resident of Luzerne County and a BCNEPA subscriber and is concerned as to how the proposed merger of Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania (BCNEPA) and Highmark will affect the coverage currently available to, and premiums currently paid by, her husband and her.

Because Ms. Schwab indicates that Medicare provides primary coverage for her husband and her, there should be no change in either coverage or premiums as a result of the merger. That is because BCNEPA does not offer Medicare products except for products it offers jointly with Highmark.

More globally, the merger of Highmark and BCNEPA will result in additional scale, reduction in the need for capital expenditures to meet changing market needs, and synergy opportunities. It will assure that consumers in the current BCNEPA service area will continue to have access to affordably priced, high quality health care options while simultaneously enjoying the benefits of more efficient administration, additional provider choice and the enhanced availability of innovative products, services and programs.

Highmark Inc. would like to thank Ms. Schwab for her comments.

**Highmark Inc.**  
120 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: December 22, 2014

cc: Rosemary Schwab