

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald <ronald.chronister@bipc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 04, 2014 8:56 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: senatorblake@pasenate.com
Subject: Response to Public Comment from Senator Blake
Attachments: HBG1_GENERAL-1883320-v1-Response to Public Comment from Senator Blake.DOC

Ms. Bybee,

Attached please find Highmark Inc.'s response to the public comment received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department from Senator John Blake. I am providing Senator Blake 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 Senator John P. Blake Dated October 22, 2014**

Highmark Inc. is responding to the comment from State Senator John P. Blake received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on October 23, 2014. The comment is numbered as Document 0746 on the Highmark/BCNEPA Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Senator Blake has offered comments supportive of the proposed merger of Highmark and Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania (BCNEPA) based on his belief that the merger will build upon the two companies' strong history of collaboration; leverage their respective strengths; and achieve efficiencies that will serve the health care needs of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

Highmark Inc. is in agreement with Senator Blake's comments. As he notes, Highmark and BCNEPA have worked together for more than 75 years and the proposed merger is a natural progression of the successful business relationship that the two companies have forged over decades. The proposed merger builds upon the two companies' history of collaboration and will provide for a virtually seamless transition of products and services for the benefit of consumers, employers, physicians and hospitals in BCNEPA's current 13-county service area. It also will allow the combined entity to remain a viable competitor that will provide benefits to consumers, employees and the communities in BCNEPA's current service area for many years to come.

Highmark Inc. would like to thank Senator Blake for his comments and support and his commitment to the residents of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

Highmark Inc.
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: November 4, 2014

cc: Senator John P. Blake