

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald <ronald.chronister@bipc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 04, 2014 9:40 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: mcarroll@pahouse.net; ffarina@pahouse.net; epashins@pahouse.net; khaggerty@pahouse.net; gmullery@pahouse.net; rmirabit@pahouse.net; mflynn@pahouse.net; ngoodman@pahouse.net; RepKavulich@pahouse.net; pmundy@pahouse.net
Subject: Response to Public Comment from members of the Northeast Democratic Delegation
Attachments: HBG1_GENERAL-1883316-v1-Response to Public Comments from Northeast Democratic Delegation.DOC

Ms. Bybee,

Attached please find Highmark Inc.'s response to the public comment received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department from members of the Northeast Democratic Delegation of the House of Representatives. I am providing Representatives Carroll, Mirabito, Farina, Flynn, Pashinski, Goodman, Haggerty, Kavulich, Mullery and Mundy 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 Representatives Carroll, Mirabito, Farina, Flynn, Pashinski,
Goodman, Haggerty, Kavulich, Mullery and Mundy
Dated September 29, 2014**

Highmark Inc. is responding to the comment from State Representatives Mike Carroll, Richard Mirabito, Frank Farina, Marty Flynn, Eddie Day Pashinski, Neal P. Goodman, Kevin Haggerty, Sid Michaels Kavulich, Gerald J. Mullery and Phyllis Mundy, members of the Northeast Democratic Delegation of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on October 14, 2014. The comment is numbered as Document 0737 on the Highmark/BCNEPA Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Representatives Carroll, Mirabito, Farina, Flynn, Pashinski, Goodman, Haggerty, Kavulich, Mullery and Mundy have offered supportive comments on the proposed merger of Highmark and Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania (BCNEPA) based on their belief that the merger will enable the continuation of affordable, high quality health care for the residents of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

Highmark Inc. is in agreement with the comments. Highmark and BCNEPA are long term business partners whose merger will provide resources and infrastructure which otherwise would not be available to BCNEPA as a stand-alone company. The Highmark/BCNEPA merger is a natural continuation of the successful business relationship that the two companies have had for decades and will benefit the subscribers and employees of the combined company and the public in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania and across the Commonwealth.

Highmark Inc. would like to thank Representatives Carroll, Mirabito, Farina, Flynn, Pashinski, Goodman, Haggerty, Kavulich, Mullery and Mundy for their comments and support and for their commitment to the residents of the Commonwealth.

Highmark Inc.
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: November 4, 2014

cc: Representatives Carroll, Mirabito, Farina, Flynn, Pashinski, Goodman, Haggerty,
Kavulich, Mullery and Mundy