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Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald <ronald.chronister@bipc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 04, 2014 9:50 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: smajor@pahousegop.com; dmillard@pahousegop.com; mpeifer@pahousegop.com; tpickett@pahousegop.com; geverett@pahousegop.com; ttoohil@pahousegop.com
Subject: Response to Public Comment from Members of the House of Representatives
Attachments: HBG1_GENERAL-1883314-v1-Response to Public Comment from State Representatives.DOC

Ms. Bybee,

Attached please find Highmark Inc.'s response to the public comment received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department from members of the House of Representatives. I am providing Representatives Major, Pickett, Millard, Everett, Peifer and Toohil 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 Major, Pickett, Millard, Everett, Peifer and Toohil
Dated September 24, 2014**

Highmark Inc. is responding to the comment of State Representatives Sandra Major, Tina Pickett, David Millard, Garth Everett, Michael Peifer and Tarah Toohil received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on September 25, 2014. The comment is numbered as Document 0684 on the Highmark/BCNEPA Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Representatives Major, Pickett, Millard, Everett, Peifer and Toohil have offered comments on the proposed merger of Highmark and Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania (BCNEPA) supportive of the merger based on the Representatives' belief that the merger will benefit the communities in which BCNEPA currently operates and help to create greater health care efficiencies for customers in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

Highmark Inc. is in agreement with the comments. Representatives Major, Pickett, Millard, Everett, Peifer and Toohil recognize that today's challenging and rapidly changing health care environment imposes disproportionate burdens on smaller health insurers like BCNEPA; and that Highmark offers the types of resources, technology and other tools that can support the needs of consumers, employers, physicians and hospitals in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania and improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of health care in the region.

As noted by Representatives Major, Pickett, Millard, Everett, Peifer and Toohil, Highmark and BCNEPA are long term business partners and their merger is a natural progression of the successful business relationship that the two companies have had for decades. A BCNEPA/Highmark merger will offer an array of benefits to the residents of

northeastern and north central Pennsylvania in terms of community funding, employment opportunity and company leadership.

Highmark Inc. would like to thank Representatives Major, Pickett, Millard, Everett, Peifer and Toohil for their comments and support and for their commitment to the residents of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

Highmark Inc.
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: November 4, 2014

cc: Representatives Major, Pickett, Millard, Everett, Peifer and Toohil.