

ALLEGHENY COUNTY SCHOOLS  
HEALTH INSURANCE CONSORTIUM

www.ACSHIC.com



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Joseph DiMemmo  
Deputy, Office of Corporate & Financial Regulation  
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1345 Strawberry Square  
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Email to: ra-in-comment@pa.gov

Mr. DiMemmo;

We are the leadership team for the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium, (ACSHIC). ACSHIC provides healthcare to 52 Public Schools and Community Colleges in the Western Pennsylvania Region with over 17,000 employees and 43,000 lives depending on our decisions.

**Please accept this letter attesting to our unwavering support for Highmark Inc.'s dedication to improving the Allegheny Health Network's (AHN) ability to provide affordable healthcare in the Western Pennsylvania area.**

As you are aware, we have had many years of an aggressive Hospital System taking over many of the providers in the area which led to little competition and rapidly increasing costs for our public schools. Without a strong AHN system, there would be no alternative to paying unaffordable costs for healthcare in our region.

By focusing our members on the AHN system and independent hospitals in the region, we were able to reduce our medical and pharmacy spend from about \$240 million to \$230 million over a two year period. This saved the communities we serve from the need to raise taxes for employee healthcare benefits. We urge you to help us keep this option alive.

**We strongly support competition, but only you can make the playing field level for all our Integrated Delivery Network providers.**

We understand that AHN and Highmark are both benefiting from the partnership and that their financial positions have improved significantly. This alone should merit the removal of restrictive conditions necessitated early in the partnership which are likely burdensome at this point.

Thank you for hearing our concerns and helping provide continued support for our local options.

Respectfully,

David Wyatt  
ACSHIC Trustee, Chair

Janice Klein  
ACSHIC Trustee, Secretary