## Bybee, Cressinda

From:

Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]

Sent:

Wednesday, February 15, 2012 11:08 AM

To:

Bybee, Cressinda

Cc:

dyablonsky@alleghenyconference.org

Subject:

Response to comment from the Allegheny Conference on Community Development

Attachments:

Response to Comment.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment letter received by the Insurance Department from the Allegheny Conference on Community Development. I am also copying Mr. Yablonsky with the response at the email address listed in the email transmittal of the comment letter to Insurance Department.

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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:

Highmark Inc.; First Priority Life Insurance Company, Inc.;
Gateway Health Plan, Inc.; Highmark Casualty Insurance Company;
Highmark Senior Resources Inc.; HM Casualty Insurance Company;
HM Health Insurance Company, d/b/a Highmark Health Insurance Company;
HM Life Insurance Company; HMO of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc.,
d/b/a First Priority Health; Intercounty Health Plan, Inc.;
Intercounty Hospitalization Plan, Inc.; Keystone Health Plan West, Inc.;
United Concordia Companies, Inc.; United Concordia Dental Plans of Pennsylvania, Inc.;
United Concordia Life and Health Insurance Company

By UPE, a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation

## Response of UPE to Comment of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development Dated February 9, 2012

UPE is responding to the comment from Charles Bunch on behalf of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development dated February 9, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0080 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

The Allegheny Conference on Community Development has stated the organization's support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS") as it feels that the entire region will benefit. The organization notes that the proposed affiliation is essential to maintain provider choice, preserve existing jobs while growing new employment opportunities, and address the issue of rising healthcare costs.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and believes that this transaction is critical to ensuring the continued vitality of the West Penn Allegheny Health System and maintaining provider choice in our community. The ultimate plan is to build a new integrated health system that will deliver value, choice, and high-quality health care services to the Western Pennsylvania community.

0082

UPE would like to thank the Allegheny Conference on Community Development for its comments and support.

UPE 120 Fifth Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: February 15, 2012

cc: Dennis Yablonsky