Bybee, Cressinda

From:

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

Sent:

Wednesday, February 29, 2012 4:09 PM

To:

Bybee, Cressinda

Subject:

Response to Comment from Senator Fontana

Attachments:

Fontana Public Comment Response.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment received by the Insurance Department from Senator Wayne Fontana. I am also copying Senator Fontana with the response by email at the address appearing in the letterhead of his letter in support of the affiliation of Highmark Inc. and the West Penn Allegheny Health System.

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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 State Senator Wayne Fontana Dated February 27, 2012

UPE is responding to the comment from Pennsylvania State Senator Wayne Fontana dated February 27, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0156 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Senator Fontana has stated his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS") noting that the proposed affiliation is essential to preserve WPAHS and maintain provider choice in the region. Senator Fontana also comments that the affiliation will help revitalize WPAHS and thereby ensure the continued employment of the over 5,700 employees of Allegheny General Hospital alone. Lastly, he adds that preservation of this community asset will serve as a continued benefit to the region because it offers nationally acclaimed, innovative health care.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Senator Fontana and believes that this transaction will ensure the continued vitality of WPAHS by delivering value, choice, and high-quality health care services to the Western Pennsylvania community. UPE agrees that maintaining continued provider choice and competition is essential to preserving and stabilizing the health care market in the region.

UPE would like to thank Senator Fontana for his comments and support.

UPE 120 Fifth Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: February 29, 2012

cc: Sen. Wayne Fontana