## Brackbill, Robert

From:

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Sent:

Thursday, April 12, 2012 2:54 PM

To: Subject: Brackbill, Robert; matt.richards@seiuhcpa.org

t: Testimony

Good Morning. My name is Diane Lataille and I'm a registered nurse at Allegheny General Hospital. I have been a nurse for 36 years, and I have seen many changes in my lifetime regarding the practice and delivery of health care. Some good, and some not so good. I am here to testify that I support the Highmark / West Penn Allegheny Health System affiliation. I cannot imagine why the citizens and residents of Pittsburgh would not support this merger.

It is no secret to the residents of Pittsburgh, that The West Penn Allegheny Health System has struggled financially, over the past 13 years. Through all our challenges, our focus has always been and will continue to be providing the highest quality care, because that's what our patients expect, and what we expect of ourselves.

Bigger isn't always better. Although our Health Care System isn't small in any way, we recognize the importance of treating all our patients individually. We work very hard with the Hospital, and we are currently involved in projects right now which enhance the patient hospital experience. We are becoming recognized nationally as leaders in our approach to patient care, and hope to set the standards of practice for all health care providers in the near future.

Without the affiliation with Highmark, my fear is that West Penn Allegheny Health Systems would not be able to sustain itself financially, in this very competitive market. The movement we have started, to improve the deliverance of patient care, would cease, and the residence of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania would have no choice in the health care they receive. How could it be, in an area which used to boast having more hospitals per capita than most cities, we are facing the cruel elimination of those very structures, leaving possibly one stand alone power, who is more interested in making a profit, than caring for those individuals who helped make them great in the first place?

My hope is to see The West Penn Allegheny Health System and Highmark work together to improve health care as we know it today. With a sound financial base, great medical and business minds, devoted employees, and a strong community, we are only limited by our imaginations, on how we can improve the process. I am proud to say that my family and I have complete confidence in the care that we have received at Allegheny General, and we count on their anticipated future years of service in Pittsburgh.