

General Assembly of Pennsylvania

July 21, 2011

Kenneth R. Melani, M.D., President and CEO
Highmark
Fifth Avenue Place
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Jeffrey A. Romoff, President and CEO
UPMC
USX Tower
600 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Dr. Melani & Mr. Romoff:

We are writing to request the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the status of the ongoing negotiations between your organizations, Highmark and UPMC, in an effort to ensure that the public interest in broad access to health care is being served. It is our hope that we may be of assistance to your valuable healthcare agencies as they work to ensure the people of western Pennsylvania have access to the health care that they need.

As you well know, the primary function of health care organizations is to serve the public good. It is troubling that the potential failure of your organizations to reach an agreement to access facilities and physicians could lead to a lack of health care access for tens of thousands of people in our region – if not more. We are gravely concerned that some of these patients will face a disruption in the continuity of their care, which could be particularly devastating to those who are undergoing treatment for serious, terminal or chronic illness.

It is our hope that we can be of some assistance as these negotiations continue so that these frightening consequences can be avoided.

We believe that, as public officials, we can improve the dialogue in this situation, and we hope you will afford us the opportunity to do so. Members of our staffs will be in contact with your offices in an effort to schedule a meeting at a mutually agreeable time.

Sincerely yours,

Representative Mike Turzai
House Majority Leader

Senator Jay Costa, Jr.
Senate Democratic Leader

Representative Frank Dermody
House Democratic Leader

Representative Dan Frankel
Democratic Caucus Chair

Senator Jane Orie
40th Senatorial District

Senator Kim Ward
Banking & Insurance, *Vice Chair*