

Junior, Steve

From: Christopher J. Queram [cqueram@alliancehealthcoop.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 16, 2004 11:22 AM
To: jorge.gomez@oci.state.wi.us
Cc: steve.junior@oci.state.wi.us; jm.barnett@hosp.wisc.edu; sgduse@mbf-law.com; mmichal@reinhartlaw.com
Subject: University Health Care



JHC Acquisition.pdf
(51 KB)

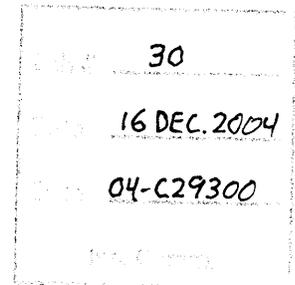
Commissioner Gomez,

Please accept the attached letter of comment on the matter of the University Health Care hearing later today.

Thank you.

Chris Queram
CEO
The Alliance

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Employer Health Care
Alliance Cooperative

December 16, 2004

Commissioner Jorge Gomez
Office of the Commissioner of Insurance
125 South Webster Street
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Commissioner Gomez:

It has come to our attention that the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) will soon convene a hearing with regard to the matter of the proposed acquisition by University Health Care (UHC) of a controlling ownership interest in Unity Health Plan.

As an employer-owned and directed health care cooperative based in Madison, created for the sole purpose of assisting employers in the pursuit of value-based purchasing of health care services, we would like to comment on the UHC acquisition and its implications for the local health care market. We believe this acquisition is a positive step, in that it will help to ensure that Unity will continue to reflect the values and characteristics of the local communities it serves. In contrast with many other markets around the country, Wisconsin generally, and Madison specifically, has had a relatively favorable experience with managed care. This experience is due in large part to the fact that the governance and operation of these organizations is grounded in and responsive to the local community and not a distant group of executives and shareholders. While there continues to exist an opportunity to improve both the quality and the cost-effectiveness of health care services in our market, we believe the best opportunity for successful resolution of these issues is through community-based collaboration processes and forums. The UHC proposal will help preserve this valuable characteristic in the midst of the many changes affecting the provision of health care in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Queram".

Christopher Queram
Chief Executive Officer

wsc

cc: Jane Barnett, CEO, University Health Care, Inc.
Steve Junior, OCI Hearing Examiner

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