



EDWARD J. KRESS DISTRICT 3

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*For Immediate Release:
May 1, 2015*

Councilman Kress Announces Motion Supporting State Suit Against UPMC/Highmark

Councilman Ed Kress today announced that he will introduce a motion to support the State's recently declared lawsuit addressing the dispute between UPMC and Highmark. This decision came after UPMC announced that they would terminate their contract with Highmark regarding their Medicare Advantage plans, denying those Highmark insureds access to UPMC's hospitals and physicians. The State's lawsuit will force both parties to enter into binding arbitration regarding a violation of the Consent Decrees established between them in 2014. Councilman Kress, Chair of the Special Committee on Insurance, has held multiple meetings with UPMC, Highmark, and local residents affected by changes in coverage due to the dispute between the two healthcare giants.

Insurance Committee Chair Kress stated "I applaud both Governor Wolf and Attorney General Kane for addressing this unfortunate situation. I strongly support the timely resolution of this issue, as it has created serious consequences for residents throughout our state. I am thankful that this lawsuit is being brought. It's time to enforce the Consent Decrees made between UPMC and Highmark." He continued, "UPMC and Highmark both agreed in the Consent Decrees that those insured under Medicare would have In-Network access to their physicians and UPMC should honor that promise."

Council President DeFazio joins Councilman Kress in supporting the State's suit. He stated "We are urging the Governor and the Attorney General to provide whatever resources necessary to handle this situation. The UPMC and Highmark Consent Decrees must be enforced so the residents of Allegheny County can receive the best healthcare possible." Councilman Kress' motion will be entered into the record at Council's next regular meeting, May 5, 2015.

For more information, please contact Councilman Ed Kress at 412-350-6535.

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