



May 6, 2024

To the Commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC):

At the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), our drive is to deliver world-class care for all individuals. Having a strong reputation and high expectation of excellence has allowed UPMC to expand to a 29-county health system with over 130 years of being an anchor in the communities we serve.

We pursue advances in technology, innovation, and cures to rare diseases. We also take care of Pennsylvania's children, veterans, the elderly, and any person that walks into one of our facilities. We employ tens of thousands of employees and have operations across the Commonwealth—all in service of our mission to giving back to the community and providing quality of life to those in need.

In fact, during the pandemic, when other industries were put on pause, or closed their doors, UPMC ensured anyone who needed medicine, a check-up, or a procedure, received it. That said, costs were not mitigated during that challenging time.

Before the PUC, right now, is a proposed rate increase that would hinder our mission of patient care and our employees. Utilities reflect some of the highest expenses that UPMC facilities incur. For example, operating rooms, equipment, and internal operations do not vary throughout the year. Unexpected costs and substantially higher expenses require a shift in where dollars are allocated. When utility costs escalate other areas of healthcare are impacted. Regardless, we will always save a life. Deliver a baby. Replace an organ. Regardless of a patient's ability to pay. In Pennsylvania, an estimated 6% of individuals are underinsured.

Enduring rate hikes will cost patients, nurses, doctors, and people. While we will always comply with the Commission's regulatory decision, UPMC wants you to consider the impact on the residents of the Peoples Gas region. We believe People's Gas rate hikes will yield negative impacts to the community and healthcare industry. However, more importantly, it will have negative reverberations for the patients we serve.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Krolicki", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John P. Krolicki
Vice President-Facilities and Support Services,
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside
Chief Administrative Sustainability Officer, UPMC