COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
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C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

September 5, 2014

Tom Betlach, Director
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
801 East Jefferson, MD 4100
Phoenix, Arizona 85034

Dear Mr. Betlach:

Pima County and its many health partners collaborate to promote a diverse, accessible and community-based network to promote access to the best possible healthcare services and better promote optimal health outcomes for the residents of Pima County. In accordance with the goal of a healthy Pima County, I am writing to offer my support of the merger of The University of Arizona Health Network (UAHN), including the health plan University Family Care (UFC), into Banner Health.

This is a necessary and strategic step to continue to increase access to healthcare for Pima County residents. The merger between UAHN and Banner Health should provide an innovative, statewide, comprehensive healthcare delivery capacity that will inherently promote and strengthen the health outcomes of the people of our jurisdiction and the State of Arizona. Banner Health's merger with an academic enterprise further promotes the continued integration of Graduate Medical Education and clinician training, enhancing the retention of qualified providers throughout the state and medically underserved areas.

Banner Health and UAHN each have a committed vision to increase access and provide healthcare services to some of our most vulnerable populations. I believe this merger will enhance our existing partnership and allow Pima County to advance the health of all our residents.

Sincerely,

Chuck Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/mjk

c: The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Jan Lesher, Deputy Pima County Administrator for Medical and Health Services
Dr. Francisco Garcia, Director, Pima County Health Department