



Highmark Health

Locations: Pennsylvania (HQ)

Industries: Health Care Equipment and Services

RISK LEVEL:



High Risk

DESCRIPTION:

Highmark Health scored a 100 on the 2023 Corporate Equality Index (CEI) from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a political stakeholder group. By complying with Human Rights Campaign's controversial demands, Highmark Health increases the risk of dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. The company covers transgender-related medical costs for its employees and their children and provides specific sexual orientation and gender identity-based benefits. It also uses sex and gender ideology criteria in employee recruitment, vendor selection, marketing, and philanthropic support. Highmark Health forces employees to undergo multiple ideological trainings and uses its reputation, corporate funds, and political influence to support controversial sex and gender ideologies, organizations, and legislation. The company conducts unconscious bias training, promotes "gender-affirming" care, and is a corporate partner of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce. For these reasons, Highmark Health receives a High Risk rating.

Corporate Weaponization

Has denied service to customers, suppliers, or vendors due to their political views or religious beliefs OR corporately boycotts, divests, or sanctions regions, people groups, or industries.

Medium Risk

Highmark received a score of 100 recruits employees based on sexual identity issues. The company discriminates against vendors that do not promote divisive sex and gender policies, indicating it prioritizes sexual issues over merit (1)(2). However, Highmark has not publicly fired customers, suppliers, or vendors based on political views or religious beliefs.

Charitable giving (including employee matching programs) policies or practices discriminate against charitable organizations based on views or religious beliefs.

High Risk

Highmark (1)(2).

Employment policies fail to protect against discrimination based on political affiliation/views and/or religion.

High Risk

Highmark HRC 2023 CEI rating indicates the company forces employees to attend multiple, controversial trainings on gender identity, sexual orientation, transgender issues, and divisive racial ideology. The company provides gender transition guidelines for its employees and a specific benefits guide with a comprehensive explanation of transgender services funded by the company (1)(2). The company is committed to diverse gender identity and sexual orientation in its hiring process, including its participation in CEO Roundtable (3). Through the Enterprise Equitable Health Institute, Highmark trains employees on obstetrical racism (4). Highmark offers unconscious bias training for its employees (5). CEO David Holmberg is signed the CEO Action for Diversity & Inclusion (6).

Highmark does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees [\(7\)](#).

Corporate Governance and Public Policy

Uses corporate reputation to support ideological causes and/or organizations hostile to freedom of expression. High Risk

Highmark indicates the company agrees to allow a controversial stakeholder group focused on sexual identity issues to dictate marketing or advertising strategy [\(1\)\(2\)](#). By doing so, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. The company has a Transgender Health Program and promotes "gender-affirming care" on its website [\(3\)](#).

Uses corporate funds to advance ideological causes, organizations, or policies hostile to freedom of expression. High Risk

Highmark indicates the company covers transgender related costs for its employees and their children, including paid short-term leave, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, chest surgeries, genital surgeries, medical visits and lab monitoring, travel and lodging. Additionally, the company has pledged philanthropic support of at least one organization or event that promotes sex and gender ideology [\(1\)\(2\)](#). By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company increases health care costs and risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. Highmark [\(3\)](#).

Uses corporate political contributions for ideological, non-business purposes. High Risk

Highmark indicates the company publicly advocated for controversial sex and gender ideology through local, state or federal legislation or initiatives [\(1\)\(2\)](#). By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. Highmark has not used its PAC donations for ideological purposes [\(3\)\(4\)](#).

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