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President & CEO

Dear Commissioner Donelon,

On behalf of the Greater New Orleans Foundation (Foundation), I am proud to submit this letter supporting the proposed acquisition of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana (BCBSLA) by Elevance Health.

The Foundation is proud to have maintained a deep partnership with BCBSLA over the years as a result of their unwavering support and sponsorship of many of our initiatives. From GiveNOLA Day, our 24-hour day of giving, to numerous grants supporting our Disaster Response and Restoration Fund, COVID relief, and support for our Nonprofit Leadership and Effectiveness trainings, BCBSLA and the BCBSLA Foundation have proven to be steadfast partners in our mission to create a better region for us all.

The Foundation is also a healthcare policyholder for our employees with BCBSLA and we agree that the proposed acquisition is in the interest of our organization as a policyholder. This transaction has the potential to significantly advance access to healthcare innovation, services and capabilities for Louisianians at a much faster rate than BCBSLA could do alone. Elevance Health's almost \$4 billion-investment in healthcare services and capabilities is impressive, and we deserve to benefit from these investments.

Separately, because of the Foundation's role in advancing the development of the BioDistrict New Orleans, where I serve as Board Chair, we are deeply committed to improving the access to quality healthcare and advancing health care research and development in our region. We are excited about the potential that this acquisition, and particularly the proposed *Accelerate Louisiana Initiative*, will have in enabling new philanthropic partnerships that will help advance these goals, not only in the Greater New Orleans region, but statewide. With more than \$3 billion in assets, Accelerate Louisiana will make a material difference in the health and lives of the people of Louisiana. This state continues to lag behind many other states and the nation itself in many health indicators. Taking bold steps like this has the potential to be transformational for the more than 4 million people who call Louisiana home. Having a philanthropic

investment this significant focused solely on the people of Louisiana is unprecedented and overdue.

I fully support the bold step BCBSLA has taken to secure its future, and I strongly recommend that the Louisiana Department of Insurance approve this transaction.

Sincerely,



Andy Kopplin
President & CEO, Greater New Orleans Foundation
Doris Z. Stone Chair in Philanthropic Leadership