

*Baton Rouge
Area Foundation*

August 1, 2023

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Commissioner James J. "Jim" Donelon
Louisiana Department of Insurance
1702 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Commissioner Donelon,

I respectfully submit this letter supporting the proposed acquisition of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana (BCBSLA) by Elevance Health.

I am deeply committed to improving the overall health of those that call Louisiana home. The Baton Rouge Area Foundation and its donors have, over the past 60 years, supported causes to improve access to quality health care, medical research, and overall health outcomes. That is why I'm very excited about the proposed acquisition of BCBSLA by Elevance Health.

This transaction has the potential to exponentially 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 nationwide in healthcare services and capabilities is impressive, and we deserve to benefit from these investments.

In addition to the increased access to new capabilities BCBSLA will be able to bring to Louisiana, I am especially excited about *The Accelerate Louisiana Initiative*. With more than \$3 billion in assets, this prospective foundation will have the ability to make a material difference in the health and lives of the people of Louisiana. And the fact that it will be solely focused on Louisiana is unprecedented and impressive. Louisiana continues to lag the nation in many health indicators, and unprecedented steps are called for to improve the health of the more than four million people who call Louisiana home.

As a local philanthropic partner who has teamed up with the BCBSLA Foundation on critical projects, I know this expanded capacity through a new foundation has the opportunity to lever even greater impact for our region and state. 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,


Chris Meyer
President

100 North Street
Suite 900
Baton Rouge
Louisiana 70802
phone: 225-387-6126
fax: 225-387-6153
braf.org

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**Commissioner of Insurance
Legal Division**