

Silverback[®] Society

GENERATIONS DEPEND ON ME

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July 26, 2023

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. I am co-founder and now Chief Finance Officer of the Silverback Society, which was founded in 2007 to address the need for mentors, role models and curriculum to help middle school boys set their sights on becoming the kind of proud, capable, responsible men who can reduce poverty and its associated health consequences for their children, breaking the cycle of poverty in their generations. That is why I'm very excited about the synergy made possible by 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 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 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 in order to improve the health of the more than four million people who call Louisiana home.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Louisiana has been a major partner in our innovative systems level approach to improving future health outcomes for children in Louisiana.

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,



Lloyd H. Dennis Jr
CFO Silverback Society, Inc.