

July 21, 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. The Louisiana Association of United Ways (LAUW) is an association of eight regional United Ways committed to supporting healthy communities. LAUW also serves as the statewide coordinator for Louisiana 211, working to help Louisiana neighbors find sources of help to meet needs, including those that are considered social determinates of health. 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 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.

Currently, LAUW is working with BCBSLA to remove transportation barriers for people who need rides to critical health appointments, cancer therapies and pharmacies. Together, LAUW and BCBSLA is provide free help each and every day for a healthier 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.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 225-341-2928 or [Sarah@launitedway.org](mailto:Sarah@launitedway.org).

Sincerely,



Sarah Berthelot,  
President and CEO

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**JUL 25 2023**

Commissioner of Insurance  
Legal Division