



July 25, 2023

Mr. James J. Donelon
Louisiana Commissioner of Insurance
Louisiana Department of Insurance
P.O. Box 94214
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9214

Dear Commissioner Donelon:

On behalf of Methodist Health System Foundation (MHSF), I am submitting this letter in support of the proposed acquisition of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana (BCBSLA) by Elevance Health.

MHSF is a health legacy foundation committed to the overall health of our community. We operate school based health centers in St. Bernard Parish and provide health-related grants throughout greater New Orleans and, therefore, extremely dedicated to advancing initiatives to improve health and health outcomes.

We believe that this acquisition can be a catalyst in advancing healthcare services and innovation throughout Louisiana. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation has been a catalyst in promoting real change through its support of health-related programs. Their focus and dedication on giving back to the community and convening like-minded agencies is unparalleled. Bringing partners together makes the work even stronger. MHSF has been honored to participate in many of these strategies over the years. Elevance Health will invest close to \$4 billion dollars, beyond what BCBSLA is able to provide alone. What a win for Louisiana!

MHSF is also excited about *The Accelerate Louisiana Initiative*. It is well known, and embarrassing, that Louisiana is at the bottom of the list for most health indicators. It will take funding and tireless efforts to reverse that statistic. The Foundation's large financial assets and focus on Louisiana have the ability to lead the way to positive change.

I, and MHSF, support BCBSLA's efforts to advance its future and we trust that the Louisiana Department of Insurance will approve this transaction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy M. Beron".

Wendy M. Beron
President

WMB/gd

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JUL 28 2023
Commissioner of Insurance
Legal Division