



August 3, 2023

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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 and know that the Community Foundation of Acadiana cares most about improving the lives of all people in our eight-parish service area. Personally, I am a Lafayette native and the daughter, granddaughter, and sister of physicians. I have the good fortune of living in a region that is largely powered by healthcare, anchored by two hospital systems, academic institutions committed to producing a healthcare workforce, and other homegrown healthcare companies that lead the nation as providers, including LHC Group, Schumacher Clinical Partners, and VieMed, to name a few. Prior to becoming the CEO of the Community Foundation of Acadiana, I served in regional and statewide leadership roles for Boys & Girls Clubs and saw firsthand the broad challenges many of our Louisiana families face. I also witnessed the power of philanthropy and strategic investment when it came to closing gaps related to food access, education, transportation, social & emotional wellness, healthcare, and career exploration. 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. BCBSLA has been a strong partner to many nonprofits and partners in the region and can always be counted on as strategic thought partners, capacity builders, conveners, and critical funders during times of disaster. I have always appreciated their willingness to listen, discuss, and explore unique opportunities to serve the people of Louisiana and support the work of so many incredible organizations in the region.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Missy Andrade".

Missy Bienvenu Andrade  
President & CEO

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