

Michael A. Fitts
President

August 2, 2023

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

Dear Commissioner Donelon,

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

Tulane University has a deep history rooted in the health and wellbeing of Louisiana. The University was founded as The Medical College of Louisiana in 1834 to train New Orleans doctors in the fight against yellow fever and cholera and remains at forefront of groundbreaking research.

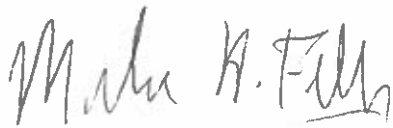
As one of the leading business schools in the nation, we also understand how important growth and capabilities have become in healthcare. I applaud BCBSLA for having the foresight to prepare for the challenging healthcare environment and to proactively seek a partner that can deliver the scale they need to continue thriving for decades to come.

As a customer of BCBSLA, it is also exciting that BCBSLA is partnering with Elevance Health, a company that has already invested more than \$4 billion in investments over the past several years on behavioral health, complex and chronic care programs, and innovative virtual care solutions. We look forward to having our employees benefit from these programs, along with them gaining access to new digital tools developed by Elevance, such as their Sydney healthcare app.

In addition to the new capabilities, services and technologies that BCBSLA will be able to bring to Louisiana through this transaction, one of the most exciting aspects is the *The Accelerate Louisiana Initiative*. I'm not aware of a transaction like this resulting in a foundation with more than \$3 billion in assets solely focused on improving the health and lives of the people of a single state.

I strongly support this acquisition and commend BCBSLA for making a bold move to secure its future, and for leaving a fitting legacy through the *The Accelerate Louisiana Initiative* that has the potential to improve the health of all Louisianians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark A. Filly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the last name.

MAF

CC: David Caldwell
Executive Counsel
Louisiana Department of Insurance
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