



August 4, 2023

Public Hearing Letter of Support

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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.

In Southwest Louisiana, we have benefitted from the generous support of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation. Not only have they partnered on programs that directly enhance the health of our citizens, they made a significant impact in our disaster relief efforts after Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Their willingness to partner with our Community Foundation SWLA has allowed us to make a positive impact on the lives of our people in the region.

I am deeply committed to improving the overall health of those that call Louisiana home. 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.

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,

Sara M. Judson
President/CEO

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