

United Way of Central Louisiana
1101 Fourth Street, Suite202
Alexandria, LA 71301



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. Working with United Way of Central Louisiana has helped to understand the needs of the individuals and the agencies that serve central Louisiana. In addition my 35 years of working in the nonprofit industry provide me a unique perspective for needs and philanthropy goals. 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.

United Way of Central Louisiana has worked with BCBSL with a community grant and have been partners in improving the lives of central Louisiana residence. Our organization received funding for The Strong Neighborhood project that was to improve the quality of life for our poorest census tracks.

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,

Michelle Purl

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