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Comment Type

Public Comment

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Received Date

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Comment

Dear Commissioner Temple: On behalf of the approximate 8,000 members of RSEA (Retired State Employees Association) of Louisiana and the approximately 230,000 covered lives in the Office of Group Benefits(OGB)health insurance plan, we are opposed to the sale of BC/BS of Louisiana to Elevance Health. It is our goal and desire to protect the benefits/coverage, premiums, and network of providers we currently enjoy. Although we are not "policy holders" under the definitions that are being utilized for voting purposes, we are directly impacted by any decisions you make impacting our healthcare coverage. We cannot help but believe that any sale of a non-profit/mutual company to a for-profit stock company will be detrimental to our membership in OGB. We utilize BC/BS of Louisiana as a third party administrator (TPA) and we also utilize the BC/BS network of healthcare providers, hospitals, personnel, and other healthcare services. We can only feel that by going from non-profit to a for-profit entity, we will see increases in premiums or reduction in benefits or a combination of both. We are also concerned about the loss of jobs in the Baton Rouge, LA area as a consequence of the merger/acquisition. Please disapprove this sale of BC/BS of LA to Elevance Health and help to protect the health coverage of our members of OGB and RSEA and jobs of our fellow citizens of Baton Rouge currently employed by BC/BS of Louisiana! Sincerely, Frank L. Jobert, Jr Legislative Affairs Director of RSEA 9412 Common St. Suite #7 Baton Rouge, LA 70809

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**Commissioner Tim Temple
Louisiana Department of Insurance
1702 N. Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802**

RE: Opposition to BC/BS of Louisiana Sale to Elevance Health

Dear Commissioner Temple:

On behalf of the approximately 8,000 members of the Retired State Employees Association (RSEA) of Louisiana and the approximately 230,000 covered lives in the Office of Group Benefits (OGB) health insurance plan, we are opposed to the sale of Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) of Louisiana to Elevance Health!

It is our position that as members of OGB, while we do not meet the definition of policy holders for voting purposes, we still have a significant role in this process. Our members utilize the BC/BS network of providers, hospitals and other healthcare facilities in Blue network. BC/BS also acts a third-party administrator (TPA) for our claims processing and other administrative functions, including customer service. Any loss of services or benefits is highly detrimental to us!

To convert BC/BS from a not-for-profit mutual company to a for-profit stock company can only mean higher premiums, lower benefits or a combination of both for our members. We are also concerned about the potential loss of jobs by our fellow citizens in the Baton Rouge area and elsewhere in Louisiana presently employed by BC/BS.

Therefore, before you finalize your decision one way or the other, please remember the hard working employees and retirees who have devoted their lives and careers to the citizens of Louisiana. Let's not deprive them of their hard earned benefits at this point in their lives!

Sincerely,

Frank L. Jobert, Jr.

**Legislative & Governmental
Affairs Director**