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Letter Attached



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February 6, 2024

Commissioner Tim Temple  
Louisiana Department of Insurance  
P.O. Box 94214  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Dear Commissioner Temple:

Please accept this letter in support of the Accelerate Louisiana Initiative (ALI), which would be created through the proposed acquisition of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana (BCBSLA) by Elevance Health.

Bayou Community Foundation (BCF) recognizes and supports the tremendous opportunity for the new ALI foundation, funded by proceeds from the proposed transaction, to positively impact the overall health and social determinants of health of residents in our Lafourche Parish, Terrebonne Parish and Grand Isle region of coastal Louisiana in a very meaningful and lasting way.

Our people who live along Bayou Lafourche, Bayou Terrebonne and on our state's only inhabited barrier island are, unfortunately, not unlike our neighbors throughout Louisiana who experience some of the worst health indicators in the nation. With \$3 billion in projected assets, ALI would be positioned to make significant philanthropic investments into innovative local and state nonprofit programs to change this trajectory for the better, benefitting all of us who call Louisiana home.

Since 2012, Bayou Community Foundation has worked to strengthen this Bayou Region through philanthropic leadership, creating a vibrant and diverse coastal community where all can thrive by cultivating charitable resources to address critical community needs. In the fall of 2023, as we continued to manage our ongoing Hurricane Ida recovery efforts, BCF completed a community needs assessment.

The most critical needs identified were related to health or social determinants of health, including the skyrocketing need for mental health care and substance use disorder treatment services, food insecurity, rural access to health care and affordable housing availability. BCF has convened local nonprofit and community leaders to begin to develop strategies to more effectively address these issues, but we know that local resources alone cannot solve these dire challenges.

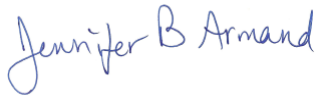
Commissioner Temple  
February 5, 2024  
Page 2

That is why we are excited about the creation of ALI. The foundation will have a tremendous capacity not seen before in Louisiana to make significant, long-term philanthropic investments that address chronic health conditions and indicators such as mental health, maternal and infant mortality, and diabetes, as well as strengthen our health care workforce and advance health care delivery infrastructure.

Clearly, ALI has the potential to catalyze innovative solutions to address some of our region and state's most dire health challenges.

Bayou Community Foundation wholeheartedly supports the proposed creation of the ALI foundation and this impactful philanthropic resource aimed at improving health outcomes for all Louisianans.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Armand  
Executive Director

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