



September 20, 2023

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 who call Louisiana home. In my role as CEO of Catholic Charities of Acadiana, I have worked with BCBSLA for many years. They have supported our work in disaster response and in our services for people who experience homelessness. This 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. Investment in solutions that improve health, such as an increase in access to mental health services, behavioral health services, affordable safe housing, are essential at this moment. We look forward to a positive relationship with Elevance Health, just as we had with BCBSLA.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Boudreaux". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a thin blue rectangular border.

Kim Boudreaux, CEO
Catholic Charities of Acadiana