

January 22, 2022

The Honorable Tim Temple
Commissioner of Insurance
Louisiana Department of Insurance
P.O. Box 94214
Baton Rouge,
LA 70804-9214

Dear Commissioner Temple:

As President and CEO of Red River Bank, I work with Louisianians every day, and understand the unique needs of my customers and neighbors. In the banking industry, we know our customers want simplicity. They also want access to the tools and services that can improve their livelihoods and allow them to enjoy everything that makes Louisiana special and unique.

Similarly, healthcare consumers are looking for access to the care they need to live their best lives. This means they also want simplicity, and they need the latest technology, tools and capabilities. 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.

As a business leader, I am aware of how these capabilities have become increasingly important in managing the health of my employees and their families, and in keeping costs in check.

My customers value the relationship they have with a local bank they trust. That's why I'm impressed with Elevance Health's model of maintaining local leadership and decision-making authority in their Blue Cross Blue Shield markets, which means Louisianians will continue helping Louisianians through their healthcare needs.

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 non-profit organization will have the ability to make a material difference in the health and lives of the people of Louisiana.

I fully support the bold step BCBSLA has taken to secure its future.

Sincerely,

R. Blake Chatelain
President and CEO, Red River Bank
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Alexandria, LA 71301