January 8, 2024

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

Re: Elevance Health Acquisition of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana

Dear Commissioner Temple:

On behalf of Louisiana physicians and the patients we care for, I would like to express our continued apprehension regarding the proposed acquisition of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana (BCBSLA) by Elevance Health. Since our public comments dated September 18 (attached), we’ve continued to talk to physician colleagues in other states; our Board met with Elevance leadership, and we have reviewed the updated filing (which contains very limited changes).

Our Board respectfully requests that all interested parties be provided a comprehensive outline of the deficiencies identified by BCBSLA, which prompted the interest in the proposed acquisition by Elevance Health, inclusive of financial considerations, information technology support as well as overall business processes and strategy.

In turn, we strongly believe Elevance Health should publicly delineate in specific detail how their organization is prepared to respond to all such deficiencies in a manner that would benefit the current policy holders, the provider community, and the citizens of Louisiana as a whole.

At present, the Louisiana State Medical Society, identified as one of the approximately ninety thousand policy holders considered a “voting member” relative to the proposed plan of reorganization continues to urge caution with the intent to vote “no”.

Sincerely,

Richard Paddock, M.D.
President

cc: Governor, Jeff Landry
    Attorney General, Liz Murrill