

## **Shareholder Proposal to Prohibit Political Funding**

Whereas, the role of money in politics was elevated and made more controversial through the 2010 Citizens United Supreme Court case that affirmed corporate rights to make unlimited political expenditures to independent groups;

Whereas, recently Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association (BCBSA) announced the suspension of its donations to lawmakers who opposed the Electoral College count after rioters stormed the Capitol building on January 6, 2021; and

Whereas, the BCBSA President stated that the Association will “. . . continuously evaluate our political contributions to ensure that those we support share our values and goals.” and “We will continue to support lawmakers and candidates in both political parties who will work to build a stronger, healthier nation;” and

Whereas, it has also been reported that our corporation or its PAC financially supported Texas state legislators who voted for Senate Bill 8, the so-called “heart rate bill” prohibiting all abortions in the state if medical professionals could detect a fetal heartbeat, something that can occur after just six weeks when most women do not know they are pregnant; and

Whereas, such political contributions to Texas lawmakers has caused serious reputational harm to our company, but more importantly, it may, in fact, cause great physical and emotional harm to women and other stakeholders; and

Whereas, because elected officials may vote on literally hundreds of issues, it may be impossible for a political office holder that is financially supported by Anthem to not vote in favor of a proposal that may have an adverse impact on our Company; and

Whereas, elected officials or candidates may also funnel personal campaign funds provided by our Company to other political candidates or elected officials for later political advantage; and

Whereas, as more corporate money dominates the political system, there is the possibility that the public may demand political retribution against excessive corporate power and influence.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The shareholders request that the board of directors adopt a policy prohibiting the use of corporate or PAC funds for direct or indirect contributions to candidates.