



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Federal Trade Commission
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONERS ROHIT CHOPRA AND
REBECCA KELLY SLAUGHTER**

In the Matter of UnitedHealth Group and DaVita
Commission File No. 181-0057
June 19, 2019

UnitedHealth Group, Inc. (“United”) proposes to acquire DaVita Medical Group (“DMG”), which provides healthcare services in Nevada and Colorado, among other states. Today, the Commission voted to accept a proposed consent agreement that requires a divestiture of the DMG business serving Clark and Nye counties in Nevada to maintain competition. We agree with the proposed remedy for Nevada, but we disagree with the Commission’s decision to not pursue an enforcement action in Colorado.

We believe the evidence uncovered by Commission staff demonstrates that the vertical merger of United’s health insurance and DMG’s healthcare services businesses would likely result in actionable harm to competition in Colorado. We were prepared to challenge the transaction in court, given the likelihood of harm. We acknowledge that Commission action involving Colorado would have borne significant litigation risks, but we believe such risks were worth taking.

Fortunately, the Attorney General of Colorado has taken action in an effort to address some of the harmful effects of the merger in a separate action. We hope all state attorneys general actively enforce the antitrust laws to protect their residents from harmful mergers and anticompetitive practices.

We thank Commission staff for their tireless work on a complex and very resource-intensive matter. While we would have preferred a different outcome, staff put the Commission in a very strong position to make a well-informed decision and serve the public interest.