WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF ANNE E. WOJCICKI

FOUNDER AND BOARD MEMBER OF 23ANDME, INC.

BEFORE THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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Chairman Comer, Ranking Member Lynch, and members of the Committee, my name is Anne Wojcicki. Nearly two decades ago, I co-founded 23andMe, Inc. ("23andMe" or the "Company") with the mission of helping people gain meaningful insights from their genetic information and transforming how healthcare research is conducted. Founding this Company and improving people's health through knowledge of their genetics has been my life's work. I am proud of the benefits 23andMe brought to the more than 15 million people who have chosen to participate on our platform.

I served as the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") of 23andMe until March 23, 2025, two days after the Special Committee of the Board (the "Special Committee") of 23andMe indicated its plan to pursue a sale of the Company through the chapter 11 bankruptcy process. I resigned so I could pursue an acquisition of the Company as an independent bidder. While I continue to be a member of the Company's Board, I have had no role in the operation or oversight of the Company since I resigned. These functions generally have been delegated to the Special Committee, composed of four other directors. As my counsel has explained to your staff, and as I know you appreciate, because I am actively involved in the bankruptcy auction process, there are significant legal and confidentiality restrictions on what I am able to address about these proceedings.

If I am successful in my bid, I can promise you that 23andMe will continue its mission of giving individuals control over their data with choice and transparency. I know these issues are a priority to the Committee and I look forward to answering your questions.

Background

Ever since I was a child, I have been interested in health, wellness, and the human body. I was raised in California with my parents, my two sisters, and a close community of friends and neighbors. My father was a political refugee from Poland. My mother's family came to the United States in the 1920s from Russia to escape religious persecution. Both my parents became academics—my father was a particle physicist at Stanford University and my mother, a journalism teacher at Palo Alto High School. They never forgot how the opportunities in the United States allowed them to build better lives. Because of their example, my sisters and I were raised with a strong sense of moral responsibility to give back to our community and make a meaningful impact on the world.

My interest in health came from my mother's firm belief that individuals need to be advocates for their own well-being. Her advocacy was born out of tragedy. When she was five years old, her 18-month-old brother, David, ate a bottle of aspirin. My grandparents took David to multiple

hospitals where doctors dismissed his symptoms. While they ultimately found a hospital willing to admit him, the following morning he passed away. My mother and her family never recovered. This is why my mother always taught us that if we do not take care of our own health, no one else will.

My passion for health persisted as an adult. My first job out of college was investing in biotech and healthcare companies. It was an exciting opportunity to be surrounded by innovative science—including sequencing the human genome—and I got to witness groundbreaking technology like robotic surgery, antibody therapies, and minimally invasive cardiac surgery. At the same time, there was a noticeable absence of funding going to disease prevention. I was often reminded by industry veterans that there is little money in prevention and, instead, the industry's focus is on disease management. After a number of years, I realized I needed a change; I wanted to leverage the knowledge from the human genome to help all of us live healthier lives. I believed that if we all came together for research, we could create a community that prioritized research that was of interest to all of us, and not just the industry.

23andMe was born out of a passion and moral imperative to help people understand the human genome so they can lead healthier, longer lives. The Company's mission was to help people access, understand and benefit from the human genome. It has always been a company that truly puts customers at the center and advocates for their rights. This founding mission was driven by the belief that it is an individual's right to be able to affordably access their own genetic information and to learn what that information means for them. This guiding light has always been at the core of 23andMe's mission.

Commitment to Research and Improving Health

As CEO of 23andMe, I believed there was a tremendous opportunity to transform how healthcare research is conducted—and, in doing so, to dramatically accelerate the pace of discovery. We found that many individuals are eager to participate in research but are rarely given the opportunity. And when they are, they are often treated as human subjects rather than as partners. We wanted to change that dynamic. Our vision was to build transparency into the process and empower individuals by giving them real choices in how their information is used and how they contribute to scientific advancement.

We also wanted to democratize access to data. Too often, researchers pride themselves on collecting data only to hoard it for their exclusive use. That approach does not serve patients. People living with disease benefit most when researchers compete on how well they analyze and interpret data—not on who has access to it.

During my tenure as CEO of 23andMe, our research program was truly groundbreaking. We built the world's largest re-contactable genetic research community and developed one of the most diverse genetic datasets in existence. Our customers voluntarily completed surveys that fueled this effort, enabling the creation of a robust, anonymized research dataset. Importantly, participation in research was never automatic—customers were required to actively opt in and were always in control of their own information.

By the time I stepped down as CEO, over 80 percent of 23andMe customers had chosen to participate in research and contributed by completing online surveys. By 2024, more than 12,000 surveys were completed every day, allowing us to conduct real-time research on a daily basis.

The impact of this work has been profound: data from 23andMe has been cited in over 275 peer-reviewed scientific publications, making a meaningful contribution to global scientific knowledge and discovery.

Our research has extended far beyond our customers—it has benefited the broader scientific community but also our own communities from coast to coast. When I spoke with customers facing serious health conditions, their hope was clear: that our research could help improve not only their own lives but also the lives of future generations. We wanted our customers to feel they were part of something bigger—a shared mission. Our goal was to empower them to actively contribute to scientific discovery and be part of a movement that could change the future of health for everyone.

When we launched in 2007, many of the ideas I have just described were considered controversial. We were breaking new ground—there had never been a direct-to-consumer genetic test like the one 23andMe offered. That is why we worked closely with experts and advisors to thoughtfully address sensitive topics and continually evaluate our policies. We engaged with leaders across the country to examine our consent process, privacy policy, and the ethics surrounding data use. We also assembled a scientific advisory board to inform all significant decisions.

As the Company evolved, so did our engagement with key stakeholders. In 2013, the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") informed us that we would need to be regulated as a medical device company. In response, we implemented additional quality control measures and conducted extensive analytical validity studies. We also ran comprehension studies, which showed that over 90 percent of our customers understood the information 23andMe provided to them.

After 14 months of rigorous work, we submitted our first 7,000 page *de novo* 510(k) FDA submission, and we received groundbreaking FDA approval. Since then, the Company has received eight more FDA authorizations for different indications, allowing us to provide 23andMe customers with reports for various cancers, heart disease risk, and potential responses to certain medications. I am incredibly proud of our nine FDA authorizations, but what I am most proud of is that we successfully fought for our customers' rights to obtain their genetic information without having to go through a healthcare provider. This was an important victory because it allowed 23andMe to provide healthcare that is both scalable and more affordable.

For example, by 2024, over 28,000 customers had learned through 23andMe that they carried a BRCA1 or BRCA2 variant—putting them at up to an 85 percent lifetime risk of developing breast cancer. Many of these individuals would not have qualified for genetic testing under traditional insurance guidelines and would never have been empowered with this knowledge without 23andMe. Sarah, a 23andMe customer with the BRCA gene, wrote to us, "I really believe 23andMe saved my life. If I never received that information I don't know if I'd be sitting

here in a couple of years…knowledge is power and whatever you learn you can act on." These types of stories are countless. For these customers, access to this information was potentially lifesaving, providing them the opportunity to take proactive, preventive measures.

Similarly, through 23andMe, over a million customers discovered they carried a genetic variant associated with elevated blood clotting risk. With this knowledge, they could take steps to prevent potentially fatal clots—improving outcomes during surgery, managing stroke risk more effectively, and addressing complications in pregnancy. Customers were also armed with information about how their genetic variants may affect how they respond to common medications—including cholesterol-lowering drugs, cancer treatments, and antidepressants. Customers have also gained insights into conditions like sickle cell disease, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (a cause of sudden cardiac death), chronic kidney disease, Type 2 diabetes, and coronary artery disease. With this information, customers could make informed decisions about their lifestyle and healthcare. And they did: in a 2019 survey conducted by 23andMe, over 75 percent of customers reported taking positive health actions after receiving their genetic results.

By being direct-to-consumer and affordable, 23andMe democratized access to vital genetic information. We made it simple for people to obtain, understand, and act on insights about their health. Over 15 million individuals have been empowered to access their genetic data, giving them both ownership of, and responsibility for, their health—and the opportunity to take preventive action.

In 2015, when 23andMe had nearly one million customers, we launched an ambitious new initiative: 23andMe Therapeutics. Our goal was not only to help customers understand their genetic risks, but to eventually help them do something about those risks and fulfill the third part of our mission of benefitting from the human genome.

We aimed to empower our customers to use their genetic information to prevent disease. At the same time, we recognized that prevention alone would not be enough—many people would still face illness and would need effective treatments. That is why we believed therapeutics was a critical next step.

Therapeutics programs backed by human genetics are two-to-three times more likely to succeed compared to those without that support. Yet, drug discovery remains a high-risk, capital-intensive effort. Over 90 percent of drug discovery programs fail, and the average cost to develop a drug is $2.6 billion. By leveraging genetic data, we saw an opportunity to improve success rates and reduce costs—bringing therapies to patients faster and more efficiently.

Customer response to this initiative was overwhelmingly positive. Every family encounters health challenges, and our customers deeply understood the value of advancing better treatment options. This was at the core of our mission from day one. In 2009, we engaged with a group of sarcoma patients—individuals facing a rare and aggressive form of bone and soft tissue cancer. Their message to us was clear: "Use the data we gave you. Help us if you can, and if not us, help someone else. Don't just store it—do something with it."

That conversation deeply shaped our approach. One of the core values of 23andMe Therapeutics became "Every Day Matters"—a daily reminder to work with urgency and purpose on behalf of our customers and their families.

In 2018, recognizing the need to scale our efforts, we entered into a five-year therapeutic discovery collaboration with a major pharmaceutical company. Our scientists studied and provided aggregate, de-identified genetic and survey data from participating customers to the pharmaceutical company. The collaboration was incredibly productive, resulting in over 50 discovery programs that the pharmaceutical company continues to pursue today. Beyond the collaboration, 23andMe also developed two drug therapeutic programs.

While our therapeutics initiatives were promising and filled with potential, the increasingly difficult biotech funding environment ultimately forced 23andMe to wind down its Therapeutics division in 2025, like many others in the industry.

There remains a significant opportunity for 23andMe to serve the broader scientific and medical communities, and to help make drug discovery more efficient across the entire industry. And that, ultimately, will lead to better health outcomes for everyone.

Commitment to Privacy

Since its founding, 23andMe has been deeply committed to honoring and protecting customer privacy. During my time as CEO, privacy was embedded in the Company's DNA—it was central to every decision we made, from product development to research initiatives.

Under my leadership, 23andMe required customers to give explicit consent before their anonymized data was used for any research purpose. Customers were reminded of their consent status whenever they participated in surveys and were given simple tools to change that status at any time. When we signed our pharmaceutical collaboration in 2018, we proactively emailed all customers with a link to opt-out of research.

While I was CEO, customers were always in control of how their data was used, shared, stored. Customers could also choose to have their saliva samples stored at the lab, or have them destroyed. All customer samples were stored and processed in the United States. Most importantly, customers could download their information and close their account at any time.

23andMe also maintained a strict policy during my tenure that we never provided individual-level customer information to any third party without the customer's explicit consent. Even then, we always removed personally identifiable information before sharing it. We never shared genetic or non-genetic data with insurance companies or employers under any circumstance.

Additionally, we designed our systems with security and privacy in mind. Genetic data was stored separately from personally identifiable information such as names, email addresses, and registration details—ensuring that no single database could be used to directly identify an individual.

Commitment to Data Security

During my time as CEO, 23andMe employed cybersecurity practices to safeguard our systems and customer privacy. Our cybersecurity team implemented standards for authentication, encryption, and authorization, supporting both consumer privacy and the integrity of our proprietary technologies.

Our information security management system was certified under ISO 27001, ISO 27701, and ISO 27018—making 23andMe the first direct-to-consumer genetic testing company to be assessed against all three of these internationally recognized standards.

We used encryption protocols to protect sensitive information at rest, in transit, and during processing. Access to sensitive data was strictly limited to authorized personnel based on job function, using a combination of multi-factor authentication and least-privilege authorization controls.

Despite these efforts, in early October 2023, we became aware that a threat actor had gained access to a limited number of individual 23andMe accounts through a method known as "credential stuffing." This technique involves using login credentials—often obtained from unrelated data breaches on other websites—to gain unauthorized access to the accounts of individuals who reuse the same usernames and passwords across platforms.

Importantly, there was no evidence of a breach within 23andMe's systems and no indication that 23andMe was the source of the compromised credentials.

The Chinese Threat to American Biotech

The threat posed by China to the American biotechnology sector is real—and it is not new. This is a concern I have held and spoken publicly about for more than a decade. China has made massive investments in life sciences and biotechnology and is rapidly positioning itself as a global leader. The Chinese government has been explicit in its ambition: to dominate biotechnology by 2035.

Institutions like the Beijing Genome Institute are now global powerhouses in genetic sequencing, and China is pouring billions of dollars into its national genomic infrastructure. Their National DNA Database, launched only in 2005, already contains over 68 million profiles, according to their own reporting.

Meanwhile, the United States is falling behind. We are not investing at the scale required to maintain leadership in this critical sector. Other countries, including many of our allies, are making strategic, long-term investments.

This disparity concerns me deeply. The United States must make bold, strategic choices now if we are to remain competitive in life sciences and biotech. That means more funding, more public-private partnerships, and a stronger commitment to genomic research and innovation.

At 23andMe, we have collaborated globally, but I want to be very clear—we have never conducted research in China or with Chinese companies. We have never provided any customer

data to China. All data was stored in the United States. I have long advocated for heightened awareness of China's ambitions in this space, and I am encouraged to see this issue finally receiving the national attention it deserves.

Understanding the human genome is not just about scientific advancement—it is about national security, global competitiveness, and the health of all Americans. This belief has fueled my work throughout my career and it continues to drive my unwavering commitment to advancing genomics for the public good.

Looking Forward

Whether I am the winning bidder for the Company's assets or not, my goal is to be an advocate for change in healthcare. I remain committed to driving meaningful change in our healthcare system by continuing to empower individuals and enabling them to make informed decisions about their health.

I believe:

- **Consumers should be in control of their own data**, with full choice and transparency around healthcare decisions.
- **Prevention must become a national priority**, and every person should have the right to know their health risks and take proactive steps to avoid disease.
- **Patients should be treated as research partners**, not merely as human subjects.
- **And we need to promote a centralized research community of consenting individuals** that can vastly accelerate the pace of discovery and ensure the U.S. remains the global leader in biotechnology.

I want to close by thanking the 15 million customers who trusted 23andMe and joined us in pioneering the field of direct-to-consumer genetics. Together, we have discovered long-lost relatives (me included!), taken preventive action against genetic health risks, and contributed to a growing body of knowledge that may one day save lives—our own and others'. I also want to thank the team at 23andMe, both past and present, for being on the frontlines of this journey. It has not always been easy—but it has been extraordinary. I am proud of what we built together over the last 19 years, and I remain committed to this mission—because the future of healthcare belongs to all of us.