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To the House Committee on Health Care

I am writing in my quality of autism expert both as a clinician and researcher who has over 35 years of activities in the field. I have worked in eminent Academic centers worldwide including the Institute of Psychiatry in London, UK, McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and now OHSU since 2012. I have over 300 published scientific articles, and I am Joint Editor of the leading Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry.

I have been a key scientific actor in the controversy that emerged in 1998 about putative links between autism and childhood vaccines. I have also been a key expert witness on behalf of the US DOJ and DHHS in front of the Vaccine Compensation Injury Court in Washington DC (2005-2008) that dealt with a class action on this issue. At the end, the absence of links between autism and vaccines was established and confirmed by the Supreme Court later.

When the first claims emerged, researchers openly examined that hypothesis. All the research conducted between 1998 and 2006 refuted the claims of a link between measles vaccine and autisms, as well as of a link between small amounts of ethylmercury contained in childhood vaccines at the time.

There is no residual doubt in the scientific community about these hypotheses that have been firmly rejected. In the general public, the fears initially generated by poorly (and fraudulently) conducted research have been more tenacious despite multiple efforts to educate the public. As a result, wild measles epidemic have recurred with unnecessary child morbidity and mortality experienced in our populations. Children have died in the UK and in other countries from a disease that is entirely preventable.

I do give my full support to House Bill 3063. If States like Oregon do not implement rapidly solid public health measures mandating vaccination as is done in most developed countries, more children will die

unnecessarily from preventable infectious disease.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Fombonne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent horizontal stroke at the beginning.

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