

## Letters of Support

I feel blessed by the many people who have reached out to me and to the practice, as well as by my amazing staff, who have remained steadfast in the wake of all of this turmoil and uncertainty.

It is one thing for me to defend myself and my quality of care, but I think it is more effective to let those who know my work speak for me:

### Physician Support:

25 of my physician colleagues (MD's, DO's, and ND's) have submitted letters or declarations on my behalf, and a couple of others have expressed support but are concerned about speaking out formally because of concerns about drawing the eye of the Medical Board to their own practices (which I find particularly chilling.) I will here post a letter from Dr. Ingraham, a highly respected former President of the Humboldt Del Norte Medical Society and current chair of the Humboldt Health Foundation.



[Dr. Ingraham Letter](#) - letter from Dr. Ingraham

### Other Healthcare Providers

We have also received letters of support from a number of other colleagues: nurse practitioners, physical therapists, psychotherapists, nurses, midwives, and other allied healthcare providers whom I have been privileged to call team members in my various patients' care.

### Patient support:

There are more than 350 patient letters which have arrived so far, and we are also told a number of people have sent letters directly to the Medical Board rather than to us. I am very touched by the letters, which have reminded me of so many of our shared journeys. It has been a privilege to serve the amazing patients who have made their way to my office, and you have all taught me so much.

We are sharing a small subset of the patient letters we have received here, with the permission of the patients who shared them. The vast majority of these patients are on no controlled substances at all, and describe ways I have helped them with painful conditions without resorting to such drugs.



[Patient Support Letter Redacted 1220 Not Pain Patient](#) - a general letter from someone whose family has worked in healthcare



[Patient Support Letter Redacted 1585 Contraindicated Combo Of Meds](#) - a patient who arrived on a contraindicated combination of medications, and who had not been informed of risks of benzos

*The Influence of Mass Communication*

[illegible]

There have been a number of reports about the benefits of the use of digital technology in the field of education, including the development of new teaching materials, the use of digital resources, and the use of digital technology to support learning. The use of digital technology in the field of education has a number of advantages, including the ability to provide personalized learning experiences, the ability to provide access to a wide range of resources, and the ability to provide a more engaging learning experience.

It is important to point out that the results of the present study are not intended to be generalizable to all populations. The study was conducted in a specific population, and the results may not be applicable to other populations.



 [Patient And Provider Support Letter 1275 Art Of Medicine](#) - a patient who is also a therapist and who noticed I persuade rather than coerce


It should be noted, however, that the fact that the model is not a perfect fit does not mean that the model is not useful. In fact, the model is a very good fit for the data, and the results are very consistent across the different studies. This suggests that the model is a good representation of the data, and that the results are reliable.

[illegible]


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It is not a simple matter, as the above shows, to find a single, simple, and unambiguous way to represent a complex system. The above shows that the same system can be represented in many different ways, and that the same representation can be used to represent many different systems. This is a fundamental property of complex systems, and it is one of the reasons why they are so difficult to understand and model.

[illegible]

 [Patient Support Letter Redacted 1275 Stroke And Mental Health](#) - a second letter from her, noting I recognized a classic lacunar stroke syndrome that two Emergency Physicians failed to recognize



 [Patient Support Letter Redacted 65 Breast Cancer Diagnosis, Husband With Pain](#) - a breast cancer patient, whose husband had chronic pain

[illegible]

 Patient Letter Redacted 1185 Complex Medical Illness With Social Issues


My research has been interdisciplinary and often involves a mixture of the humanities and a range of sciences, especially the social sciences, history, law, and health care. In my research, I have been particularly interested in the role of the law in the development of the legal system, and in the role of the law in the development of the legal system. I have been particularly interested in the role of the law in the development of the legal system, and in the role of the law in the development of the legal system. I have been particularly interested in the role of the law in the development of the legal system, and in the role of the law in the development of the legal system.

transmission. Should a childless couple require genetic testing for an inherited condition, the couple may be advised to have the childless partner tested first. If the childless partner is found to be a carrier, the couple may be advised to have the fertile partner tested. If the fertile partner is also found to be a carrier, the couple may be advised to have their children tested for the condition. If the childless partner is not found to be a carrier, the couple may be advised to have their children tested for the condition. If the fertile partner is not found to be a carrier, the couple may be advised to have their children tested for the condition. If both partners are found to be carriers, the couple may be advised to have their children tested for the condition. If one partner is found to be a carrier, the couple may be advised to have their children tested for the condition. If neither partner is found to be a carrier, the couple may be advised to have their children tested for the condition.

lifting and carrying, digging and shoveling, use of tools/equipment, etc. Most federal and private health insurance plans and some state self-funded programs tend to exclude the above activities and subsequent claims often result in a denial of the claim. The best way to get coverage before the job performance is negatively impacted is to seek out a group-term life insurance policy, provide appropriate coverage to meet within the Bureau's guidelines. The question is whether one can afford to be uninsured in a catastrophic event. The answer is yes.

There are a large number of letters describing me offering acupuncture, herbs, PT referrals, etc when they developed pain - I never offer opioids as a first choice or a sole strategy.




 [Patient Letter Of Support Redacted 921 Acupuncture, Friends With Pain](#) - a Patient who had a flare of pain treated with acupuncture, but who has had friends with chronic pain who required stronger medications. Please note we do not know the identity of the medication her second friend was on, since he was not under my care - it may or may not have been an opioid.



 [Patient Support Letter Redacted 1014 Off Pain Meds](#) - a patient I helped taper off of 240 mg oxycontin per day back in 2006, before it was even fashionable!



 [Patient Support Letter Redacted 952 Successfully Tapering](#) - a patient who has recently tapered from 500 mg morphine per day to 20 mg per day, without withdrawal



 [Patient Support Letter Redacted 21 Tapered Opioids And Challenging Diagnoses](#) - another patient who has successfully tapered, with complex medical issues




 [Patient Support Letter Redacted 282 RA And Other Issues](#) - a patient with RA and multiple other issues




 [Patient Letter Redacted 484 Fibro And Postop Issues](#) - a patient with fibro managed with non-narcotics, who got through a joint replacement and back off opioids, and whose family I see



 [Patient Support Letter Redacted 612 Patient With Pain](#) - A patient with hemochromatosis whose pain is managed and who has trained for a second career



 [Patient Support Letter Redacted 1482 Home Visits](#) - Palliative care: A patient whose partner was seen at home during her terminal illness

## Part of the Solution

I also have training in prescribing suboxone, which is used in conjunction with Behavioral Therapy for Medication Assisted Treatment of Addiction. I have offered this since 2007, also

before it was in fashion. We make a commitment to get addicts in within 24 hours when they express interest in treatment, and many patients have given feedback that the non-judgmental attitude with which they are welcomed has helped them to be successful in treatment.

Patients of mine with chronic pain who have demonstrated difficulty managing their medications are offered buprenorphine as an alternative if I am not able to safely prescribe opioids for them. Many find their pain relief is excellent with this medication, though some report it does not work for them.



[Patient Support Letter Redacted 992 Dermatitis, Postop Pain And Shingles](#) - a patient with unexplained dermatitis, high risk for addiction with a history of alcoholism, who avoided starting opioids twice for acute pain



[Patient Support Letter Redacted 1164 Patient In Recovery](#) - a patient with addiction who has turned his life around in our suboxone program



## Media Coverage:

I also thank those who have written Letters to the Editor at various local sites and papers, and who have agreed to speak with the reporters who are interested in finding out what actually happens in my practice:

[Lost Coast Outpost](#) - Freddy Brewster

[Redheaded Blackbelt](#) - PATIENTS ARE PEOPLE NOT NUMBERS

[Another Redheaded Blackbelt Letter to the Editor](#) - Please support local doctor

[My Word: Realize what a true healer Dr. Basch is](#)

[Letter to the editor from a local physician](#)

[Times Standard](#) - article from a reporter who visited an ongoing Healing Group

[Article after the City Council Meeting](#) - btw, I did not ask them for any letter

[Pain News Network](#)

GEORGE W INGRAHAM, MD  
2603 L Street, Eureka CA 95501  
(707) 442 9361  
gwi2603@gmail.com  
June 3 2019

Corinne Basch MD  
4641 Valley E Blvd  
Arcata CA 95521

Dear Dr. Basch: ("Connie")


I am sorry to hear that you've been singled out for investigation relating to your opioid prescribing practice. I am persuaded, based on your reputation as an ethical, competent, and caring physician, that you would never prescribe irresponsibly.

As the chair of a local non-profit, the Humboldt Health Foundation, I've seen at first hand the many applications you've made to our Angel Fund Committee to obtain funding for non narcotic pain relief appliances and treatments. It's clear that for you, opioids are a last resort, and that you would exceed a published opioid dosage guideline only when there was, in your professional opinion, no alternative.

While serving as the President of the Humboldt Del Norte Medical Society before I retired, one of my responsibilities was that of reviewing complaints about practitioners. I never had occasion to review any complaints regarding your practice.

If, as has been alleged, your prescribing practices have exceeded published mandates, I am confident that this arose only from the patient's clearly demonstrated individual requirement for relief of suffering, and then only after all other modalities of treatment had failed. I am glad to name you as a respected professional colleague.

Please share this letter, if you wish, in any way you like.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George W. Ingraham MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "MD" written in a smaller, more compact style at the end.

George W Ingraham, MD



Medical Board

Re: Connie Basch, M.D.

Full Circle Center for Integrative Medicine

Dear Medical Board:

I am saddened and disappointed to hear the news that the Medical Board is considering rescinding Dr. Basch's medical license. As a patient of Dr. Basch's for the last 3-4 years, with a history of ovarian cancer and a broken vertebrae along with a variety of other small issues, I can honestly say that Dr. Basch is, by far, the most competent, caring, responsible physician I have ever had the opportunity to interact with. Both of my parents work in healthcare; my mother has been a nurse for over 35 years, my father has been involved in supply chain operations in large hospitals for over 15 years and I have worked in private practice medical offices for over 3 years. Never have I met any medical provider with higher standards, better bedside manner, or a greater understanding of medical issues and the various treatment options than Dr. Basch.

I had an emergency surgery at the age of 25 for a large ovarian tumor. I had visited my primary care doctor and gynecologist multiple times regarding a variety of issues for about one year prior to my surgery and yet my growing tumor went unnoticed. Not until I was unable to consume even a sip of water and showed up in the emergency room did anyone give me a decent look. I had to undergo emergency exploratory surgery to remove a large mass on my right ovary less than 36 hours after my visit to the ER. I continued in the care of my specialty surgeons for 5 years and was never given an actual diagnosis. I was advised on the type of tumor, the size and a "treatment plan" (extensive monitoring and testing over 5 years), but never an actual diagnosis. However, after a couple of tests and two appointments with Dr. Basch I was given a diagnosis that not only explained the tumor from almost 8 years prior, but a diagnosis that explained at least another 5 issues that I had been struggling with for almost 15 years. Dr. Basch has been and continues to help me address both the symptoms that arise from my diagnosis and discuss with me ways that might help to lessen the symptoms.

During every visit with Dr. Basch I am treated like the most important person in the world! Dr. Basch is the only provider I have ever had where she gives me her complete attention. She is always open and receptive to my thoughts and opinions about my medical issues. She does not dismiss any internet or family input I may have regarding an issue, but instead encourages me to articulate what about this information really resonated with me so much so that I think it could be a valid answer/treatment/idea, etc. She has an amazing ability to NEVER make me feel stupid or ill-informed about my own body.

While discussing treatment options, Dr. Basch has always discussed lifestyle and natural options before ever advising on medication. She counsels me regarding any side effects and is diligent in reviewing my current medications/supplements to ensure that there are no negative interactions. She is hesitant to even provide antibiotics unless absolutely necessary and will instead suggest more natural options and monitoring first to help avoid issues with antibiotic resistance. However, as I've stated previously, Dr. Basch has a great sense for diagnosing and addressing real issues, so I am completely confident that each and every medication, treatment or option she suggests is not only the best for the issues at hand, but the best treatment for the issue as it is presenting in ME.

Medical Board

June 1, 2019

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One of the most helpful things Dr. Basch does is an extension of her very present nature during office visits. Dr. Basch is the only physician I have had that will respond to me directly through her patient portal. I have received message responses from Dr. Basch in less than an hour after messaging her, in the middle of the night, holidays, and weekends. Basically, whenever I message her I have a response back. She is prompt and it's clear that she is reviewing my information before responding back to me. She doesn't provide stock responses, or generic half answers. The electronic interactions with Dr. Basch are better than many in person medical visits with other providers that I have experienced in the past.

Overall, Dr. Basch is a passionate, caring, and competent physician. This is something lacking in many areas, but particularly in our very rural region. Despite being just one provider with an always full calendar, Dr. Basch makes time for her patients when they need it. Losing any physical in our area would be problematic, but losing Dr. Basch would be a tragedy.

I think that if you looked carefully at Dr. Basch you would not only find a doctor that does the right thing, but you would find someone who the BEST thing each time for each person.

Please do not rescind Dr. Basch's medical license. This will be a loss that our community and our entire healthcare system cannot afford.

If you have any questions, or would like to speak with me, please contact me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

May 19, 2019

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Connie Basch, my physician. I was referred to Dr. Basch by a doctor from the St. Joseph Health System after fighting uncontrolled high blood pressure for 8 months. This doctor prescribed several different medications which I later found were contraindicated – making me very ill and still not controlling my high blood pressure. I had been to the emergency center three times within the span of those 8 months. The medications caused my heart rate to become extremely low and the St. Joseph Health System physician was preparing to send me to a cardiologist. Luckily, I had heard of Dr. Basch's skills as a diagnostician and requested that he send me to her instead.

I was very fortunate to have the benefit of Dr. Basch's years of experience as well as access to her talent as a diagnostician. She immediately began taking me off of many of the medications that were making me ill and researching possible causes of my health issue. She was able to get me an appointment with a UCSF Endocrinologist, Dr. Gosnell, who was very impressed with Dr. Basch's diagnostic skills and the effort she took to help me discover the source of my problem.


I am now taking one blood pressure pill each day, have reduced my use of lorazepam from 1-2 mg per day (which was prescribed by the St. Joseph Health System doctor), to .25 per day and will soon be discontinuing all use of lorazepam. Since I have been in her care I have not had any incidences of hypertension. I can't imagine what would have happened if I had remained with my previous provider – in fact I often tell people that Dr. Basch saved my life.

I have been extremely impressed by the communication I've had with Dr. Basch who has monitored my progress through both office visits and an online messaging system. This level of care is in stark contrast with the lack of care I received from the physician from St. Joseph Health System.

Having finally found a physician who cares about her patients, I am appalled that the Medical Board of California is considering removing her license. This region is quite rural, and attracting competent and caring doctors has always been difficult. Dr. Basch is dedicated to our community and her patients and she is a thorough and diligent physician.

It is my sincere hope that you will take this information into consideration and will continue to allow Dr. Basch to serve this community as a physician.

Sincerely,



[REDACTED]

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June 1, 2019

Medical Board of California

RE: Complaint against Corinne Vivian Basch MD

Dr. Basch is so concerned with patients becoming addicted to medications that she counseled me to get off Senna, a natural supplement I had been using for chronic constipation. Apparently, the bowels become dependent on the drug to function properly. When my knee hurts some months after surgery, instead of medications she sends me to physical therapy.

In our initial interview, Dr. Basch expressed concern about my taking 2mg Clonazepam that has been prescribed by my just recently retired Psychiatrist and wanted to make a plan to titrate down and, perhaps, off of it. I explained that starting with 0.50 mg it took 20 years to work up to 2 mg. Small as that is, Dr. still wants a trial of titrating down. Since this is not for pain or anxiety it's tricky, however, together we move forward.

Dr. Basch is not only thorough but also extremely patient until goals are met. Dr. Basch will continue to push the issue—Just enough, send me for testing, change the dosage of the meds until we achieve optimal levels. I say WE because she practices medicine as a Team Leader in my experience. I can be oppositional and noncompliant. She knows that by inspiring and encouraging my willingness to be healthy, that we achieve positive results. That is the art and skill of a brilliant Physician. I'm 67 years old. I've been practicing psychotherapy for forty years. Dr Basch's interpersonal skill in the practice of medicine with her patients is incomparable to any MD I've had in my life.

In addition to being knowledgeable with the latest in Western Primary Care Medicine, which she has taught as well as practiced, as a Holistic Practitioner, she stays current on treatments newly being integrated into traditional medicine. Here is an example. She was providing training on pain management at my professional organization, Northcoast Association of Mental Health Providers. I asked what she knew of the latest research for pain management being done with Turmeric. Sure enough, she was current on the topic. No pill pusher is going to bother to stay informed about alternative, non-addictive pain relief.

As a seasoned therapist well versed in addiction, I can tell you that without the support and inspiration the good doctor provides, no chronic pain patient of hers could be both willing and capable to titrate off at some of medications faster than they already are doing. Addiction has it's own timetable

Respectfully Submitted,

[REDACTED]

June 2, 2019

California Medical Board

RE: Complaint against Corrine Vivian Basch, MD

Please don't take our Doctor Basch away. My only Primary Care will be the local Emergency Departments. I went there 2 days in a row apparently having Lacunar Infarcts and neither of the ED Doctors identified it. Dr. Basch caught it and we began appropriate treatment. It reported on the initial CT.

I'm 67 years old and have pain somewhere most of the time. I've had right knee surgery, 2 right shoulder surgeries, 1 left shoulder surgery and preparing for a right hip replacement. Instead of prescribing pain medications, it is Dr. Basch's protocol to refer me to Physical Therapy many times. And it has been effective each time.

I'm a practicing therapist in the community and very aware of the medical services available. There is no where for me to go for my physical and psychiatric care unless I enroll each semester at the local University where my private practice Psychiatrist of 40 years now works. My next alternative is to seek care in Redding 3 hour away.

I implore you not to take away my Doctor Basch. I believe she helps keep me motivated, strong, healthy and alive.

If needs be, perhaps she could receive probation regarding prescriptions for those suffering chronic pain patients having so much difficulty titrating down on their medications. In my experience there is no cause to alter the way this gifted physician assesses, motivates, provides a healthy treatment plan and follow up. In my years, I have never encountered anyone as smart, current with the research, dedicated, responsive and diligent.

Please don't take away my doctor

Respectfully Submitted

June 2, 2019

To The Medical Board of California,

I just received an email from my doctor, Corinne Basch, alerting me that you are considering revoking her license to practice medicine.

I am shocked and filled with fear and panic at this possibility, not only for myself but for our community.

Dr. Basch is highly regarded in Humboldt County by patients and fellow physicians alike. This attempt to destroy her reputation and ruin her career is unconscionable.

Since moving here in 1999 I've often heard her referred to as the best doctor in this area and I agree. Everyone I know would love to have her for their doctor. Why? She is highly intelligent with the finest education in medicine from Johns Hopkins. Her knowledge of western medicine is deep and always appropriately applied. In addition she is trained in Holistic Medicine so she treats not only the symptoms of disease but the underlying causes. There is no one else here who has that expertise.

She is also what I refer to as a true doctor. By that I mean a doctor who is dedicated to helping her patients heal. Her practice is not about money or shuffling patients through every 15 minutes barely listening to them. Dr. Basch gives each patient the time and full attention they need. Every patient leaves with a summary of their visit and the recommendations for treatment so you won't forget what you need to do. Dr. Basch is a tireless worker and truly cares about her patients.

I first came to her practice in 2004 with a mass in my right breast which I'd been trying to resolve for THREE years! I had seen three other doctors, two OB-GYN's and a surgeon.

Mammograms showed nothing, ultrasounds showed nothing, I was told the lump "didn't feel like cancer". In 2004 my OB-GYN left town and I decided I needed the best doctor and made an appointment at Full Circle. Dr. Basch correctly surmised that we were most likely dealing with cancer. I had a biopsy (finally) and Invasive Lobular Carcinoma was found throughout my breast. A mastectomy was needed but I didn't trust the surgeon I'd been with and Dr. Basch agreed. She then facilitated my being accepted as a patient with Dr. Ellen Mahoney, a nationally recognized expert in breast surgery. I don't think I'm exaggerating to say that Dr. Basch saved my life. Subsequent tests and surgeries revealed the cancer had spread to both breasts and into the lymph nodes on both sides. If I hadn't gotten treatment when I did the cancer would have continued to spread and been Stage 4 instead of Stage 3.

Stage 3 is still very serious, but Dr. Basch gave me the confidence that I could get through the treatment and live a healthy life. She supported me during 8 rounds of chemo and 6 weeks of radiation recommending supplements to help protect me from the side effects of some very toxic drugs. And thanks to her continued support through the years I am 15 years Breast Cancer free. She also provides my yearly cancer follow up as my Medical Oncologist retired and there were no competent doctors to take his place.

Last year we were both surprised when I developed a Sarcoma on my left forearm. Dr. Basch knowing the rarity of this cancer recommended I go out of the area for treatment and referred me to an expert surgeon in the field at Stanford. Treatment was successful but because this cancer likes to recur Dr. Basch is working with me to reduce that possibility. We discovered that I'm not absorbing my nutrients and have a condition called SIBO. We are just starting to treat this and it is somewhat complicated. I CAN'T lose my doctor.

In Humboldt County there is a severe shortage of doctors. To remove our best doctor would be a travesty, not to mention the possibility of people actually dying because of not having medical care or not being properly diagnosed as I was in the past. Many of the doctors here do not accept new patients and to put over a thousand patients into an already overburdened system would be an unnecessary disaster.

Thankfully, I've never suffered from chronic pain but my husband did. After decades of hard work as a carpenter his body was severely damaged.

For nine years he was on Oxycodone for constant pain. He was very careful with his doses and always in compliance with his doctors. You can't imagine what it's like to watch someone you love suffer with excruciating pain. When his doctor retired, Dr. Basch was compassionate enough to accept him as a patient. After every visit he would say to me, "We are so lucky to have Connie". She was able to help him reduce the pain of an inoperable shoulder through complimentary treatments.

He had throat cancer 2017 and the Palliative Care Doctor switched his meds over to Methadone. After his treatment was over, Dr. Basch helped him to reduce his dosage from 9 pills a day to three and he would have gone lower but he passed away from respiratory failure in March.

Some people's pain is so severe that they'll never be drug free and there is no exact dose that will work for everyone. There is no "one size fits all". The patient's doctor needs to be able to determine what is the correct dose is for each individual. It's an art as well as a science. The doctor needs to be patient, sensitive, nonjudgmental and ever available for emergency calls when prescriptions aren't filled in a timely manner.

Dr. Basch has all these skills. I know the opioid crisis is a huge problem but don't make Dr. Basch and her patients the scapegoats for drug addicts and unscrupulous doctors just out for the money.

Our community needs Dr. Basch, there will be a huge unfillable hole in our medical care if she is not here.

Please be very careful in your decision and I hope you listen to her patients whose lives have been immeasurably helped by her care.

[REDACTED]

Dear Medical Board of California,

I am a 51 year old female patient of Dr. Connie Basch of Humboldt County. I've been her patient since 2015. I inherited most of the chronic health problems in my family and did not get the right health care and emotional support growing up so I've suffered my entire life with a wide variety of conditions. I have been to doctors in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee and California. Dr. Basch has diagnosed and is successfully treating several conditions which had gone undiagnosed and untreated for most of my adult life. I believe her extensive education and experience along with her thoroughness and diligence is helping me figure out how to manage my health problems better. She goes the extra mile with my indirect health issues and shows a genuine concern and care for me that I have not experienced with other doctors. Dr. Basch has made a difference in my life and many, many others. She is a compassionate person, a wise doctor and a unique and valuable asset to my community. For the first time in 51 years, I'm with a doctor who knows enough and cares enough to manage my various conditions and I hate the thought of not having Dr. Basch as my doctor.

My conditions are extensive, complicated, and often torturous. I came to see Dr. Basch hoping to find a way to improve my treatment plans for restless leg, chronic back, neck and body pain, inflammation, nerve damage, gastrointestinal imbalances, and Type I Diabetes. All of these conditions have affected my sleep dramatically leaving my quality of life at close to nothing. Dr. Basch put me on iron for the restless leg which should have been done in 1997. She found my homocysteine level high and we are effectively treating it with Methyl-Guard Plus. This blood test had never been checked prior to Dr. Basch. After several diagnostic test, she found I had been living with Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency. I'm guessing based on my symptoms, I've had this for at least 15 years. I am now taking Creon for my digestion. These are issues that should have been diagnosed and treated a long time before Dr. Basch and I continue to suffer today because of the missed diagnosis, but hope in time these treatments will continue to make more and more of a difference.

I believe Dr. Basch's education and experience give her insight into my complicated medical history in a way that I have not had before. She is helping me figure out what is wrong and we are working together to improve my crazy imbalances. My health struggles go back to childhood and things are not going to change overnight, but I think we are making progress. For the first time in years, my HgbA1c is below 7. I've been able to sleep a little more at night. My inflammation has improved, and I've seen an increase in my energy level. I still have a lot of work to do, but Dr. Basch respects the fact that I can only handle so much and that my body is exhausted from all the stress of having so many imbalances for so long. She knows it's up to me to help myself, but she continues to educate me and provide me with choices to try with hopes of improving all my intertwined conditions.

Along with managing, diagnosing and treating my health conditions, Dr. Basch helped me get into low income housing and every year fills out the paperwork I need to stay there. She encouraged me and helped me get a dog who provides me a reason to keep trying. She finds the least expensive options for my medicines and supplements, consistently deals with my prescriptions and Medicare needs, and she recognizes and tries to work within my financial constraints. She emails me in between office visits when I have a problem or even just a question. She recognizes

my needs are numerous, complicated and frustrating and knows how to support me in an effective way so I am able to continue to live independently.

Bottom line, after my experiences with numerous doctors throughout the country, I feel very fortunate to have Dr. Basch as my doctor. She knows what she is doing more than my previous health care providers and she is compassionate. She recognizes the complexity of my issues and works extremely hard trying to figure out how to help me manage my health better. We need Dr. Basch practicing medicine in Humboldt County. There are not enough doctor's as it is, especially ones who practices Integrative Medicine. Dr. Basch is a perfect doctor for the patients in my community and deserves everyone's support in her quest for helping others.

Sincerely,



President and Vice President of the California Medical Board  
2005 Evergreen St., Suite 1200  
Sacramento, CA 95815

June 3, 2019

Dear Ms. Pines and Dr. Lewis,

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Corinne Basch as my primary care provider. I have been a patient of Dr. Basch for several years. I am 60 years old and of good health, but have moderate discomfort due to osteoarthritis, particularly in the hips. I appreciate the attention she gives to my health issues and the fact that she provides me with information about treatment alternatives. We work together to come up with a suitable approach that takes into consideration my preference to avoid hip replacement as long as possible and to minimize the use of over-the-counter and prescription drugs. I find the written Visit Summary she provides very valuable. It includes Recommendations and Orders, any Tests or Prescriptions and a Summary of Recent Issues, current medications, and select diagnostic test results.

I have been to a handful of doctors, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners in Eureka, Arcata, McKinleyville over my 20 years of residence in Humboldt County. I found Dr. Basch to be knowledgeable of a wide range of health issues and alternative treatments. Contrary to the usual impersonal, assembly-line style of many doctors who are overloaded with patients and paperwork, Dr. Basch's compassion gives the patient a feeling that they are valued as a person and merit her full attention.

During a recent flare-up, I was pleased with the pain relief I experienced after Dr. Basch's treatment using acupuncture with low-level electrical stimulation in my sacro-iliac/hip areas. Luckily, a series of two treatments reduced my pain level so that I could pursue an exercise program that has allowed me to return to walking, swimming, boating, gardening, and light hiking.

I know of people who are less fortunate than me in that they have a high level of pain that doesn't respond to simple treatments. Those people were prescribed opioid drugs by different doctors with the goal of reducing pain to a level that could support a decent quality of life.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

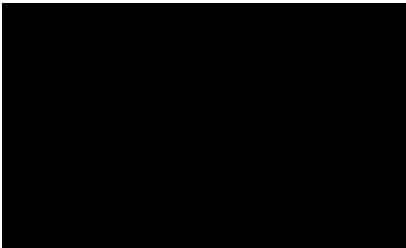
Another person I worked with was a very active [REDACTED] who also experienced excruciating back pain after an injury. He was prescribed a medication to attenuate his pain after back surgery failed to provide relief. His doctor was tapering him off of that medication, but the drug side-effects and pain levels were such that this very healthy, vigorous man took his own life. While we know using opioids and other pain medications for extended periods is not ideal, it seems there is a risk of suicide for some patients when efforts are made to taper them off certain medications. I can imagine that compassionate doctors would not want to shoulder the heavy burden of knowing a patient under their care took his or her own life.

Humboldt County has a major shortage of doctors and other health care practitioners. If Dr. Basch was not allowed to practice, we would lose an extraordinary doctor. She is the only doctor I know of that focuses on pain management and is willing to take on patients that other doctors feel are too difficult or risky because of their use of pain medications. I have never observed or heard of Dr. Basch having unprofessional conduct or being negligent. I believe Dr. Basch endeavors to provide the best care possible to her patients. If she could no longer practice here, a substantial number of Dr. Basch's patients pain would be denied access to local medical care for addressing their pain issues.

Based on the service Dr. Basch provides for this community, I ask that you consider an alternative to revoking or suspending her medical license. I really hope the Medical Board could come up with course of action that would provide a pathway for correcting any behaviors that resulted in this Accusation while allowing Dr. Basch to continue her medical practice. There are a large number of people in this county that rely on compassionate doctors such as Dr. Basch to provide us with tools we need to maintain healthy and productive lives.

A recent Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services report that states that "...Humboldt rates for nearly all of the leading causes of death are 2 to 3 times that of the state." (Eureka Times-Standard, 5/30/2019). Based on the challenges of this remote, rural area and the lack of access to sufficient health care, we can't afford to lose another doctor!

Sincerely,



May 17, 2019

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my family physician of over twenty years. I am shocked that her medical license is in jeopardy and am hoping my story will help. My story is her defense. I will try to be brief.

When I first came to be seen by Dr. Basch I had been diagnosed with fibromyalgia by a physician in the Los Angeles area and had been on pain and depression medications. Back then little was known about fibromyalgia and pain and I was basically led to believe I would have this for the rest of my life. Dr. Basch did *not see it this way and later began a pain support group. It was there that I learned many new coping skills and started to hone them, eventually enabling me to become free of the opioids and other meds that I had been taking. It was life changing to say the least!*

I returned to college, was able to obtain a BSS and worked as a social worker for over a dozen years. Recently, when pain returned in a new form, I was able to attend the support group for reinforcement and *encouragement, learning new forms of treatment that do not include prescription medications. I have been able to be free of these types of drugs for over 12 years now.*

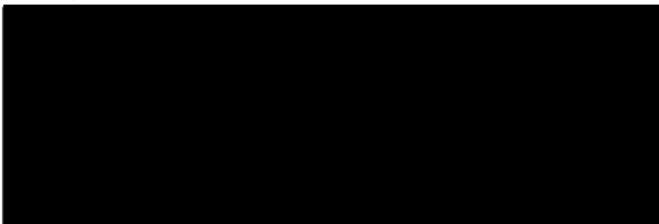
A few years ago, while Dr Basch was located in Washington, I had seen another physician at our local Open Door Clinic. I was not able to function at work due to extreme exhaustion and that doctor told me to go to a psychiatrist. I did, and the counselor suggested I see Dr Basch who had recently returned to the area. Fortunately, Dr Basch allowed me back into her practice and after a very thorough exam and testing it was revealed my Cortisol and DHEA levels were not even within low normal ranges. After taking supplements for only a few weeks I was able to begin to function again and eventually was able to work again. This was another life changing moment that only Dr Basch created by her compassion and amazing work ethic to truly help others and not just cover up symptoms.

I am extremely grateful to Dr Basch and her entire practice at Full Circle Integrative Medicine. The old ways of seeing dis-ease is changing and Dr Basch is at the forefront. To remove her from this would be a tragic and short-sighted decision.

I am not the only patient to have benefitted from her practice and have witnessed it in many of her other patients. *Please do not remove this progressive, talented, insightful physician from our community. It would be a huge loss for so many of us.*

Feel free to contact me if needed, I would be happy to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



May 23, 2019

To the Medical Board of California,

I am a fifty four year old chronic pain patient. I have chronic daily migraine, fibromyalgia, and depression, among other things.

I was diagnosed with chronic migraines and depression over twenty years ago. During that time my dose of opiates went up, as it is wont to do when your tolerance goes up. I was first on one Vicodin as needed (after trying the non-opiate pain relievers) by the time I moved to Humboldt County I was on five hundred mg of Kadian, a time released morphine.

I by some lucky chance got to be a patient of Dr. Basch's. First she tested me to see if other things were wrong, adjusted medications and supplements. Made sure I could sleep. And had me start coming to pain groups that were held twice a month. In the pain groups, which I have been in for almost five years, we learned every possible way we could help ourselves relieve or deal with pain. After the first year the groups dropped to once a month.

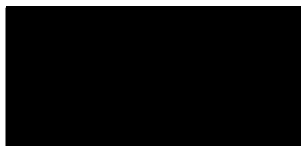
Somewhere in the first year Dr. Basch asked me if I wanted to reduce the amount of Kadian I was on. I said yes, because I wondered if some of the lethargy and brain fog problems I had were related to the amount. Between then and now I have gone down from 500 mg daily to twenty. I take ten milligrams of Kadian in the morning, and again at night. I did this at my own pace, only suggestions to think about going down farther from Dr. Basch. As someone who was addicted to cigarettes, and comes from a family of drug addicts, mostly recovering I know this is the only way this would work. Addicts and pain patients both are wary of someone trying to take away their drugs because we are both dependent on them. I trusted Dr. Basch to help me rather than make some arbitrary decision based on numbers from some agency that doesn't deal with pain control or drug addiction recovery.

This county has inadequate numbers of doctors and dentists for its population. We were amazingly lucky to get onto Dr. Basch's patient list. She's rarely in a position to take new patients. She is a pain specialist in a rural county, which is unheard of. And she not only takes care of our usual medical needs but gives us access to ways to help heal ourselves. Our pain groups consist of meditation and talks about various methods of managing or relieving pain. I think all of those still in the group have improved, and a lot of us are on much less pain medication.

I have no idea why someone would think Dr. Basch was not an adequate doctor. She is a great doctor, possibly to her own detriment. She cares about her patients; she does everything possible to treat us; we all see her once a month at least in the pain groups. She's incredibly knowledgeable about pain and pain relief. She's the best doctor I've ever had. Most doctors I've had let me do a lot of the research on my condition and did what I suggested. Doctor Basch knows a lot more than I do about my conditions and it's such a relief! She seems to keep her knowledge up to date too. In her talks in the pain groups she uses peer reviewed scientific research. I've never had her recommend some treatment without telling me something about the research done on it. Which makes me trust her all the more.

In Humboldt County it is almost impossible to find a doctor. If we were given sixteen days to find new doctors, most of us would have to go outside the county, which in most cases would be the Bay Area, since all rural counties have this problem. Not all of us can make that trip regularly, either financially or physically. And we'd never find one half so good.

Sincerely,



May 20, 2019

Re: Dr. Corinne Basch

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to implore you to allow Dr. Corinne Basch to stay in this community and continue to serve her patients, most of whom need her desperately. We are an extremely rural community and have a hard time keeping doctors as it is and losing one of the very best would be devastating to our community and have a chilling effect on the health and welfare of countless people. There is nowhere for most of us to turn. I've called around and cannot find anywhere nearby that is accepting new patients.

I have been a patient of Dr. Basch for nearly fifteen years, starting in the early 2000s to 2008 (when she left the area), and continuing when she came back in 2013. By the time I met Dr. Basch, I had seen a multitude of doctors, too many in number and specialty to count, had gone from an active, happy, hardworking, young woman, excited to have just bought her first home, to a deathly ill, bedridden, sick person with no life outside the house and very little hope for a better future. I had overwhelming fatigue and weakness complicated by chronic, debilitating pain. This all came on after a six-month treatment of Lupron for endometriosis. I'd been told I needed psychiatric help and felt absolutely helpless and hopeless after being left undiagnosed after nearly two years.

To say I met Dr. Basch with reticence and trepidation would be an understatement. To my (and my husband's) surprise, she came into the room, sat down with my thick file on her lap, and said, "Let's figure out what's going on." Other doctors had put me on 90 mg of Oxycontin and 60 to 80mg of Norco, which helped with the pain, but I remained undiagnosed and debilitated. Dr. Basch told me of a new program she was implementing that involved meeting with other patients once a month and learning new and different modalities of dealing with chronic pain. I am so thankful I said yes!

Dr. Basch worked with me and my husband tirelessly, ordering myriad blood work, MRI's, scans, and so much more. I cannot now recall all that she looked for but I know it was the most thorough workup I'd had in my life. One thing I knew for sure was that she had STUDIED my history and had every intention and belief that I could recover and find life again. She listened with patience and empathy. I joined the healing group she had started with other people in similar situations as mine. She said she suspected I had fibromyalgia and CFS, two fairly unrecognized problems at that time, even dubious according to many doctors. I had one tell me he wouldn't diagnose patients with those diseases because they were, "Dead-end diagnoses without hope for recovery." Dr. Basch, however, had been studying these diseases and had learned some hopeful research on them. She began teaching me ways of healing that I had never even heard of before. She encouraged me during the pain groups that met once a month for two hours (she was always there the whole time), to try many different approaches: Tai Chi, Chi Gong, meditation, exercise (which seemed impossible at the time), and far too many more to list. She said instead of just taking the pain meds when I felt awful, which was always, to utilize them as another tool in my box of healing. At her gentle urging and because of her absolute confidence it would help, I began slowly exercising, walking just a little each

day. Much to my surprise I started noticing positive changes, not only in my weight, but in my sense of physical and mental well-being. The short, and ultimate, of it is that I started working out daily, eventually going 6-10k on my Nordic Track, started feeling more like my old self, miraculously returned to work a couple of days a week, and was feeling better than I had in years. As I started feeling better and getting stronger, she encouraged me to try slowly tapering down on my pain meds, which I found I was able to do, eventually completely cutting out the Oxycontin! I give credit to her guidance and teaching.

In 2008, Dr. Basch left the area to teach in another state. It was a tremendous loss, but only one of many to come in my life. In her absence, I lost my father and young brother within five months of each other, suffered a new physical setback, which I later learned was spondyloarthropathy (gut-related). I was again devastated and lost. This is not a great area for keeping or finding doctors and specialists; it is very rural, all of our doctors are truly overworked and underpaid, and we are constantly losing them to bigger, more populous areas. For care from specialists we must travel long distances and stay in hotels. It is exhausting, expensive, and dehumanizing. I was given Enbrel and was back to needing 60 - 80mg of Norco a day.

In 2013, to my sheer delight, Dr. Basch came back to our area and I jumped at the chance to once again become her patient and join a healing group again. There is nowhere that I know of (certainly nowhere in our area) where once a month you are in a room for two and a half hours WITH your doctor and seven to nine other patients. She knows our cases and us so well. I've never had such amazing, individualized care from a doctor and doubt I will again if she is forced to leave.

Over the last several years I have dealt with setback after setback in my health and Dr. Basch has been working tirelessly by my side to help me figure out what is going on. Under her care and guidance I have been able to reduce my use of Norco from 60-80mg a day, to 10mg a day with an additional 5mg for breakthrough pain. I wouldn't have thought I could do it because I feared getting worse and losing what little life I was able to live. Dr. Basch assured me that while I might feel pretty awful for a while, I would eventually begin to feel better. She was right, but it wasn't easy. I can attest to many others in my group, people with whom I've grown close, who have had similar experiences coming to Dr. Basch on meds that were eventually reduced thanks to her teachings. She is diligent, thorough, and dedicated to helping her patients.

I was diagnosed with stricturing crohn's with the help of referrals and tests from Dr. Basch. Most recently I have been diagnosed with Ramsay Hunt syndrome, or shingles on the eardrum affecting the facial nerve. It is horrible and terrifying. Dr. Basch is the one who gave me that diagnosis after two other physicians missed it. She made time for me to come in on her day off to be seen because I was having some scary symptoms. She quickly put me on a third round of anti-virals and prednisone in the hopes of saving me from the facial paralysis that can come with this diagnosis. So far it has not progressed.

All of this comes down to how ridiculously wrong it is for an exemplary doctor to have to fight to maintain her professional integrity. She takes on the toughest cases in chronic pain and "legacy patients," who, as I did, come to her on high doses of pain meds. Her groups and her consistent message that there are MANY alternative answers to recovering from or improving debilitating pain other than just throwing a bunch of pills at it prove she truly cares about our quality of life and wants to help us to be as pain-free and medication-free as is humanly possible. She even started a program to help in the treatment of addiction. Sadly, not all can have even a glimpse of quality in their lives, they are so sick; Dr. Basch does not turn her back on those patients. She is exceptional in her care and service, not only to her patients, but to this community as well. Given the depressed economy in our area, it is hard to keep doctors at

all, let alone good doctors. Most of us have to travel out of the area for specialists, which is not only a hardship physically, but financially as well. I fear what the loss of yet another doctor will do to this area, which is already in desperate need of more doctors. I'm afraid for patients who will be left without a doctor. I am afraid for myself. There is literally nowhere for us to go.

I implore you to allow Dr. Basch to continue on with the good she is doing in this community and the help she is giving otherwise hopeless patients, like myself. She has helped me change my life for the better, has given me hope where I had none, has given me a better outlook with a broader spectrum of pain management tools than I'd have ever been able to find on my own, and helped me maintain autonomy in my personal life. She is an exceptional doctor and has made an unparalleled difference in our community. To not allow her to continue on in her work would be detrimental to so many people who desperately need her. I would go so far as to call it unconscionable. Don't take her five most difficult patients as the only representation of who she is as a doctor without taking into consideration the vast number of successful outcomes, which more than overwhelm those five. Do not take punitive action against her, ultimately harming her patients and an entire community that is already riddled with a lack of adequate care and in desperate need of physicians, and keeping in mind the absolute lack of available doctors to take on her patients in this area.

Respectfully,



June 2, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a patient of Corrine Basch, M.D., since March, 2014. I came to her diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis, Degenerative Disc Disease, multiple allergies including food allergies, multiple chemical sensitivity, gastrointestinal problems, as well as other physiological problems. I had had to retire early, due to illness.

My previous general practitioners had been uninterested in treating more than one of the above, or had misdiagnosed my symptoms, and thus treated these problems incorrectly. I had been without a General Practitioner for several years. Dr. Basch has persistently worked with me and my specialists to find ways of treating my chronic pain, even as the natural course of these conditions continues. Diet, exercise, PT and OT, and topicals have been at the forefront of her efforts to help me control pain, not narcotics. Despite setbacks, such as joint replacement surgeries and reactions to medications, Dr. Basch has continued to support my efforts to maintain functionality without resorting to opioids. For two years (since hip replacement surgery) I have taken nothing stronger than Ibuprofen for pain, in addition to several medications prescribed typically for Rheumatoid Arthritis, like Humira and Plaquenil.

Dr. Basch has been committed to seeing me holistically as a complex person whose medical conditions may be interrelated. Her patience with my reluctance to try her elimination diet system has been heroic. I eventually tried it, and the result is that I finally feel well enough to resume my private practice in psychotherapy.

Dr. Basch is the most dedicated, hard-working medical doctor I have ever worked with. She works around the clock to meet her patients' needs. Several times she has answered my e-mailed enquiries late at night on a weekend. She has found a way to see me with sudden or unusual needs. An MRI for a patient with claustrophobia is a serious problem for the patient, though it may seem minor to anyone else. Not to Dr. Basch.

Our rural community has a dearth of general practitioners and specialists. Many people do not have a family doctor, much less a qualified specialist. Our few doctors are inhumanly overworked. I have to drive to Santa Rosa for Orthopedic and Rheumatology specialists. Losing Dr. Basch will mean our few doctors will suddenly have to take on 1400 more special, high needs patients. I know there is an opioid crisis, but Dr. Basch is one of the doctors who is working to reduce that crisis, not contribute to it. Please allow her to continue seeing patients unhampered.

Respectfully,

May 24, 2019

Connie Basch, MD  
Full Circle Center for Integrative Medicine  
4641 Valley East Blvd., #2  
Arcata, CA 95521-4630

To Whom It May Concern;

I have had the good fortune to be under Dr. Connie Basch's care since June 9, 2014. Dr. Basch's expertise and caring manner is unsurpassed in my experience.

I presented to this clinic with multiple medical concerns, many of which I had previously been unable to find relief. Dr. Basch was able to assist me in finding relief through integrative techniques. I would like to address just a few that I have received care from Dr. Basch that was unique to my previous experiences with other providers.

For fibromyalgia I had previously tried many of the common pharmaceutical medicines only to be left with extreme nausea and emesis. Dr. Basch discussed dietary implications as well as prescribed the ONLY medication in 18 years to both help and have zero side effects. This has been incredibly life enhancing for me. My quality of life has tremendously improved with fewer symptoms of pain, nausea and emesis. I had been, at times, unable to leave my home due to the symptoms. I now can schedule and plan my life's activities due to her knowledge and expertise. I have a life again.

In addition, Dr. Basch discovered that I have Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. This might not seem unusual to diagnose this, however, I am in my mid 50s and not one other practitioner had ever spotted this condition. EDS is very uncomfortable, at times painful, and can cause a variety of other concerns to include dislocations in my body. With the diagnosis, I have been able to research and learn how to best manage this condition, strengthening and stabilizing my joints to protect and prevent any further dislocations. Without her knowledge, I would have continued to have injuries causing harm to myself as well as financial burden of medical care.

I also have Celiac Disease which Dr. Basch further investigated. Most doctors have given the instruction "don't eat gluten" and have provided no additional information or help. Dr. Basch went beyond standard medical care and discovered I also have a tendency to malabsorption. Once again, armed with information ONLY discovered through Dr. Basch's diligence, intelligence and perseverance from a genuine, caring provider I am able to monitor and make informed decisions about my health leading to a greatly improved quality of life.


In February 2018, I underwent a total knee replacement in Fortuna, California. Due to my history of EDS, allergies to medicines, Celiac and fibromyalgia my surgeon requested that Dr. Basch assume monitoring and control of the pain. Dr. Basch closely monitored my use of oxycodone for pain. Midpoint in my recovery, Dr. Basch prescribed a pain relief gel that helped a great deal with pain enabling me to sleep better at night as well as reduce the oxycodone. Using both techniques really made a difference in the pain levels. In addition, I was able to email and/or call the office for help and information. This was very helpful, as I could not drive and was in quite a bit of pain. EDS complicated the recovery but with Dr. Basch's close observation and assistance I was able to recover without concern of addiction or overuse of any medications. She clearly instructed me on use, how to reduce and finally eliminate this very addictive medicine. Having her help and support was very crucial to me during this time. Not only was the surgery extremely painful, and the recovery exacerbated by EDS, I was concerned with becoming addicted to this oft publicized addictive substance. Having her clearly explain and monitor was a true gift and gave me peace of mind in a very trying time. Gel

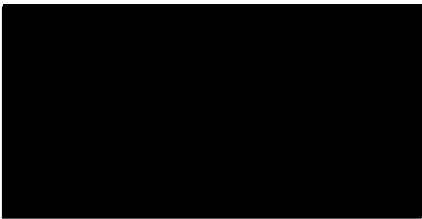
I feel as though I could just keep typing about all the wonderful ways my life is better with Dr. Basch in it. She provides such a needed service in this small community. Not just for Western Medicine, but for those of us that prefer to have alternate approaches, she has that knowledge neatly tucked up her sleeve as well. She is a blessing. There would be a tremendous hole should she become unavailable to her patients. There is absolutely no one here who can fill those shoes. No one.

Finally, I would like to address the service she has provided my family. My sister has NF2 and a myriad of issues associated with it, including profound deafness, as well as celiac. Dr. Basch patiently types to communicate and exhaustively discovers ways to provide her with help, comfort and wellness. I have been to many healthcare providers with my sister, Deborah, over the years and I can tell you in most instances they do not go the extra mile to help or be understood by a deaf person. They speak to the interpreter, not the patient, leaving the person feeling unheard and dismissed. They also tend to rush through the appointment, leaving her feel that she was somehow a burden or not "worth their time". That has not been the case here. Dr. Basch has been so amazing that Deborah feels comfortable visiting Dr. Basch on her own instead of depending on me as her interpreter. I am not sure that there is a higher compliment from a deaf person.

Dr. Basch also provides care for both of my elderly parents. They both have heart issues that are beyond treatment. Yet, Dr. Basch continues to offer palliative solutions and care to make each day as comfortable and pleasant as possible. In an age where elderly people can feel invisible this is really a special and caring trait in Dr. Basch.

In summary, Dr. Basch is an astoundingly intelligent, competent and caring woman who has devoted her life to helping people through so many stages of their lives. She sees us, most often, at our worst and yet we never are left feeling rushed, dismissed or a bother. We feel cared about. We feel safe. We feel heard. So please hear us. Dr. Basch is an amazing, extraordinarily well-educated medical professional with an uncommon skillset. Her loss would be felt throughout our county and most definitely in each and every patient's life.





June 1, 2019

California State Medical Board  
Re: Dr. Corinne (Connie) Basch

To Whom it May Concern:

Dr. Corinne Basch is my beloved primary care physician. I am writing today to object to the current action being brought forth by the California State Medical Board.

Dr. Basch, or Connie as many patients know her, has helped me in myriad ways. I was lucky enough to stumble upon her while she was still taking new patients in 2014, making me a patient for 5 years. Connie has taught me more holistic and traditional ways to cope, treat, manage, and most importantly, LIVE with multiple health issues caused by Hemochromatosis, than all 20+ physicians I have seen over 57 years. Every primary care and specialist physician I had seen in my life had failed to diagnose a genetic condition, if caught early, would have saved me from suffering in the ways I currently suffer. Cirrhosis (ESLD), EPI, IBD, osteoarthritis, obesity, pancreatic dysfunction, impaired immunity, sleep apnea, HBP, allergies, fibromyalgia type symptoms, spinal spondylosis, degenerative disc disease, and gen moderate, occasionally severe chronic pain etc. I am a patient with a LOT of chronic health issues, including end stage liver disease. I am the type of patient who needs a superb doctor like Dr. Corinne Basch.

Dr. Basch was the first doctor to test me for exocrine pancreatic insufficiency. I had seen a couple of local gastroenterologists and was told I had IBD and nothing much could be done but live with it. Connie tested my fecal elastase and I now utilize prescription digestive enzymes that have helped manage what was years of chronic, debilitating diarrhea. In addition, she offered several "more natural" options such as acacia gum fiber, probiotics, info on lifestyle modifications and more. This has improved my quality of life tremendously.

After I herniated a disc at L5/S1, to join the desicated disc at L4/L5, Connie referred me to UCSF for surgery. Due to complications of hemochromatosis, my surgery was only minimally successful at reducing the acute pain of a herniated disc. With Connie's help, we went through several attempts at medicine other than the opioids prescribed by the surgeon (a month's supply of 15mg/day). We were unable to utilize NSAIDS or Tylenol due to ESLD. Tramadol had produced a complication with the prozac that I take for anxiety/depression issues. We tried Low Dose Naltrexone and Buprenorphine, one was not effective and the other made me high and hyperemic. When we decided to stay with the opioids, I signed a pain contract and

attended the requisite 12 week pain group where I learned about other ways to help with pain and also created a few friendships that still continue for support. I get pee tested randomly. All of this has allowed me to reclaim my life. I lost my career as a [REDACTED] as through conversations with Connie and the worker's comp evaluator, sending me back to work as a [REDACTED] would "do harm" even if I could stand the pain for a few more years. With the healing I have received at Full Circle Center, I went back to school and finished my bachelors in social work and instead of becoming another chronic pain patient on SSDI, I am a contributing member of society, working in community health. This has all but cured my depression.

How does Connie accomplish all of this? She runs a patient centered practice where shared decision making is at the core. She has a personal connection to each patient that allows her to know when to push, shove, or step back from an issue for a bit. Always listening to what is said and listening for what is unsaid. In the case of chronic pain patients, that could be going to the streets or committing suicide if forced to taper down. As a practitioner, taking away her right to assess her individual patients for risk vs benefit, forcing a bureaucratic, possibly ill conceived set of "guidelines", is what I consider **Medical Board Malpractice**. I find this especially heinous given my search for chronic pain management specialists on your board and found not one biography that listed this as a specialty. Why might that be? Perhaps it is the absolute fear of having the injustice that is happening to Connie that makes PCP's run from specializing in chronic pain management? Certainly, in Humboldt Co., if you search for a PCP, one of the questions asked is if you are on opioids for pain management and if you are, we are not taking you as a new patient, or, we will take you but not treat you for pain. FEAR caused by actions such as yours are keeping legitimately suffering human beings from having a quality of life they deserve. THIS IS SHAMEFUL!

Dr. Connie has made the mistake of not charting (she's amazing, not perfect) in a CYA fashion as she is too busy serving 1400-1600 active patients, working in excess of 100 hrs a week as a solo practitioner, taking on the MOST challenging patients. Find her guilty of THAT. She deserves an AWARD, and has many, I'm sure. Come follow Dr. Connie through one day in her practice. Just one day and you will tear up your misguided petition to revoke and beg forgiveness for the pain and suffering you are causing her and her patients who are scared to death for Dr. Basch and for themselves. What exactly do you plan to do to help all of those patients find a PCP? Not only are there virtually no PCP's worth 2 cents taking new patients, if they exist, it could be months on a list waiting to get in. Are you really going to contribute to an ongoing access to healthcare crisis in Humboldt, already at its breaking point, by removing the best practicing physician in the county? If so, your shortsightedness astounds and could open the board up to legal challenges.

Sincerely and IN FIERCE PROTEST,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Saturday, June 1, 2019 4:28 PM

**To:** connieb fullcircledmed.org <connieb@fullcircledmed.org>

**Subject:** Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Connie Basch.

Dr. Basch has been my primary care physician for almost two years now. During this time she has helped me with both my physical and emotional health. Her diagnostic abilities are very keen , due to her great intelligence and her comprehensive questioning . She has also always been quick to research anything that is not immediately clear to her. Her diagnoses and solutions for me have always been beneficial.

I feel that Dr. Basch is an incredibly responsible physician, conscientious and compassionate. I feel very well cared for by her and her supporting office staff. And I know that I can get in contact with her, if I need further help.

Dr. Basch was also my partner's physician for many many years, guiding her through back pain and heart issues and more. Dr. Basch helped diagnose her pancreatic cancer , when that arose, and referred her other practitioners who could be of help. After some time of remission, when the cancer returned, Dr. Basch went out of her way to help with palliative care to ease the pain and suffering. She came by our house when it became difficult for my partner to travel. Her compassion and understanding during that strenuous time, helped both my partner and myself. I cannot say enough about how Dr. Basch's skills made a difference in aiding us through the passing.

I ask that you do everything possible to let Dr. Basch continue her work as a physician in our community. She is an outstanding doctor. She is trusted by many many many patients who would be bereft without her. The pool of physicians in this area is limited. We need her expertise and skills. We need her caring. We need her.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

June 7, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to Dr. Basch's medical practice and medical license.

When I was younger, I became extremely frustrated with doctors because I had suffered from skin rashes for a decade that had gone undiagnosed. It wasn't until I became a patient of Dr. Basch's that correct testing was done, including a skin biopsy and fecal tests. Because of Dr. Basch, I was diagnosed with blastocystis hominis. This parasite had affected my stomach, which resulted in a rash that covered large portions of my body. Only after this diagnosis was I able to focus on my gut health and make progress.

Over four years ago, while struggling with alcoholism, I enrolled in a 30 day program and have been sober since. Within the following six months, I had shoulder surgery, and Dr. Basch was extremely helpful in providing me with non-opioid/narcotic options for dealing with pain and reducing swelling.

Recently, while out of town, Dr. Basch was able to diagnose a case of shingles the day the rash began. I was able to message her on her online portal, which she provided her personal phone number to send photos of the rash -- which all happened outside of her working hours. Because of her quick response, she was able to send in an emergency prescription to a nearby pharmacy. Without her prompt diagnosis and treatment, my shingles case would have been much more severe. While oxycodone is the most common painkiller prescribed for shingles pain, knowing my history with addiction, Dr. Basch prescribed gabapentin for nerve pain when my symptoms were at their worst.

I hope Dr. Basch will be able to continue to help and care for her patients, like she has done for me and so many others.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

## Dr Connie letter

Mon 6/3/2019 4:04 PM

To: info fullcircledmed.org <info@fullcircledmed.org>

Dear medical board of california,

I am writting this to you to try and make you understand that what you are doing to Dr. Connie Basch is unfair and unjust. I have had my share of doctors over the years but I have never had a doctor like Connie. She has ultimately saved my life and I am not just saying that. I had such a problem with pills and alcohol that I never thought I could be sober and function properly in the regular world again. To get out of bed and stay sober all day was so far out of reach before I met her that I never even tried to reach out and grab it. She was patient with me and let me get back to normal on my terms and that helped tremendously and made it so I wouldnt get frustrated and wanna quit the program. I went from taking 80mg of morphine and 20mg of Norco and whatever else I could find on the street every day and mixing them with alcohol to being a (completely sober) administrative manager at a high end place and making enough money to support my other half and 2 year old. I make enough to allow my wife to stay home with our son and be a stay at home mom and that was always my dream in life was to not only be a father but be a great provider for them like my father was. None of that would of been possible without Connie. I was going nowhere fast, heck I most likely would be dead right now if it wasnt for her. You all are making a terrible mistake right now and need to understand how amazing she really is. I trust connie more than I trust myself and I know that she will always be there to help me and my other half because unlike a lot of the doctors that get into this for money she got into being a doctor because she cares about people and wants to see them succeded at life. Your stopping that from happening!!!! I wouldnt be where I am without her and if you take her ability to help others away there is going to be someone just like me out there that is going through this that will not get the right kind of help they need. I feel sorry for all those people going through what they are going through and wanting help but dont know about Dr. Connie because unlike a lot of doctors out there I know she can help. Every person that has said they wanted help I have refered them to her and will continue to do so. Please reconsider what you are doing to her. You dont punish someone for doing the right thing and helping people get off of drugs. That is not how you fix the opiate problem plaguing America you do it by employing more people like Dr. Connie who knows the right way to get a person clean and not do it to make an extra buck. I wish you would sit in on just one class with her and see the reactions she gets from her patients every single one of them adores her and are grateful to have her in there life's. In closing just remember what you are actually doing your stopping someone from being the most amazing doctor Humboldt county has from doing the job she was born to do. Everyone is in debt to her and I know I will be throwing my support behind her and will do everything in my power to help her. She is amazing an you should be helping her an not stopping progress. You appreciate it.