



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]