

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,

