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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 additive 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.

