

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.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]