

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER
AT DALLAS

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Holder, Beatrice and Miguel Elias Distinguished Chair
in Obstetrics and Gynecology

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

November 18, 2002

Michael Basco, M.D.
4100 Heritage Avenue, Suite 120
Grapevine, Texas 76051-5760

Re: Aetna Health of North Texas

Dear Dr. Basco,

I am glad to write this letter on your behalf to Aetna Health. This is in regards to your suspension and subsequent termination of privileges from Baylor-Grapevine:

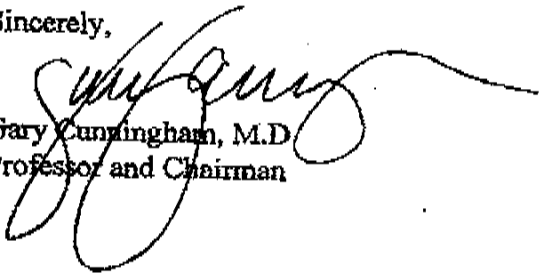
By way of background, I have been professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UT Southwestern Medical Center since 1982. Dr. Basco successfully completed our residency program at Parkland Hospital and it was during that time that I got to know him. He is an excellent and competent obstetrician-gynecologist with medical and surgical skills commensurate with his training. During these four years, I also got to know Dr. Basco as a person. In my opinion, he is an honest person who still has many of the favorable characteristics instilled in him during his tour of duty with the U.S. Army.

I appeared as a witness on behalf of Dr. Basco during an administrative hearing held at Baylor Hospital of Grapevine. As I understand the sequence of events, Dr. Basco complained to the hospital administration concerning a nurse's conduct that resulted in a bad obstetrical outcome, shortly thereafter, the hospital summarily suspended his privileges. Of note, the committee which reviewed Dr. Basco's conduct did not find any problems with his handling of this patient. The hearing concerned allegations (not from the patients) that Dr. Basco allegedly had used misoprostol indiscriminately two years earlier. I was provided and reviewed some patient charts at issue in the hearing. There was no evidence in these charts showing that the events even happened. The "evidence" was the testimony of a disgruntled ex-employee who Dr. Basco had fired and the testimony of two labor and delivery nurses who did not document nor report these events when they supposedly occurred about two years prior. It is also my opinion that the hearing was a kangaroo court --- the hospital's attorney hired a close business associate who is an Ob-Gyn as the panel chief. Two doctors employed by the hospital were the other two members.

I concluded that Dr. Basco did not violate any section of the hospital by-laws, the Texas Medical Malpractice Act, nor did he practice medicine beneath the standards of care. There was no competent evidence which would support the conclusion reached by Baylor-Grapevine.

I hope that this information is helpful to you and to Aetna Health of North Texas

Sincerely,



Gary Cunningham, M.D.
Professor and Chairman

GC/kmm