

AFFIDAVIT OF ARNOLD GORE, CONSUMERS HEALTH FREEDOM
COALITION

To: The State Education Department
Committee on the Professions

I am writing to request that you review the record in the Matter of Dr. Serafina Corsello, MD. I am quite sure a diligent review of the record in this unusual case will result in restoration of her medical license. I am a consumer advocate, a member of The Consumers Health Freedom Coalition, a group of health conscious consumers who got together in 1994 to work on the necessary political measures to obtain passage of the Dietary Supplement Health Education Act of 1994 at the Federal level and the Alternative Medical Practice Act of 1994 at the State level. The overriding purpose of both was to obtain a more accepting legal climate for the more widespread use and acceptance of Alternative or Complementary Medicine. The number and distribution of medical doctors who use Alternative Treatments is unfortunately a small number as a proportion of available practitioners. The obstacle within my control is the underlying hostile attitude of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC). I first met Dr. Corsello on January 23, 2001 at the New York City Hearing of the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy. Dr. Corsello was a member of a panel of Alternative Medical Doctors whose licenses were in the process of being taken away by OPMC. I had heard about her as one of the leading alternative practitioners, but I was unaware that she was having problems with OPMC. I started to meet with her about the substantive allegations against her and read her book *The Ageless Woman* dealing with the intricacies of her accumulated experience and wisdom in treating the many stages of Female Health problems using a deeper analysis of the interrelationships of the hormonal and immune systems and their responses to more natural treatments. I volunteered to work with Dr. Corsello in helping to activate health consumers to make sure that OPMC followed the spirit and intent of the Alternative Medical Practice Act in protecting the doctor from being disciplined merely because she was practicing and publicly advocating the benefits of alternative medicine. During this time I met many of Dr. Corsello's patients who were very satisfied with their treatment and did not want to lose access to one of the leading alternative medical practitioners. I wrote to OPMC and prepared form letters for patients and consumers to send the regulators. I was shocked to learn that her case was never substantively decided on its merits, but forfeited due to her attorney's failure to answer the OPMC charges within the appropriate time period allowed under the Statute of Limitations.

I have carefully reviewed the charges specified by OPMC and Dr. Corsello's response. The listing of charges brought against Dr. Corsello specifically cites some of the oldest, most medically and scientifically valid therapies used in alternative medicine. Some of these are vitamin infusions, vitamin supplementation and chelation therapy. The appearance of these charges in the specifications, on its face must overcome a very high burden to establish that the OPMC did not have a preconceived bias against one of the most highly regarded practitioners in the Alternative Medical Community. I am specifically shocked at the specifications of patient E who had epilepsy. I had epilepsy for 25 years which was reasonably well controlled by Anticonvulsant drugs, dilantin and Phenobarbital. I cured myself with high doses of the B Complex and completely changing my diet to include many foods high in the B Complex and trace minerals. I have been off all medication for over 26 years and have been seizure free for over 18 years. I am not the only person with epilepsy who has had this type positive experience with B Complex vitamins. I have met and helped many make these dietary changes with extraordinary success. To merely be forced to read the OPMC charges found in F (1) "inappropriately and without legitimate medical purpose .ordered tests..." F(1) (a) "...vitamin B1,B2&B6,serum vitamin B12..." and F(1)(e) "rbc magnesium" makes me angry at

the complete lack of knowledge and failure to read the medical and scientific literature demonstrated by the OPMC in the instant case. To then state that these charges were not brought by people who were unreasonably biased against alternative medicine is blatant disregard of the record in this case. I am personally not knowledgeable about some of the other diagnostic parameters referred to in the charges, but if this is a random sample of the repetitious litany of charges, it brings them all into question.

Dr. Corsello, although she was no longer practicing medicine, maintained a keen interest in promoting the benefits of the more natural approaches to health and well being. I continue to work with her and other health consumer groups to try to bring about in the United States Senate, a more independent oversight body to monitor and regulate prescription drugs after the post marketing approval of the Food & Drug Administration, which has been forced to belatedly remove many of the drugs recently approved under a cloud of conflict of interest. Dr. Corsello maintains a busy schedule of lecturing and teaching doctors, medical students and health conscious consumers about alternative medicine and health domestically and in Europe. The reputation of this doctor is still high in the alternative medical community. The honors she has received prior to her licensure problems are outstanding. Dr. Corsello was included among the first Advisory Committee to the Office of Alternative Medicine of the National Institute of Health (NIH) in 1992. She has written a book *The Ageless Woman*, which sensitively deals with the special problems confronting women as they pass through the various stages of development emphasizing the deep interrelationships of the hormonal and immune systems that must be given adequate nutritional support. Much of what science and medicine has formulated as a dietary supplement comes from basic nutritional extracts that have kept people healthy for generations. My personal health profile was satisfactorily changed with diet and nutrition modifications and exercise alone. Other people are not as fortunate for one reason or another and desperately need access to Alternative Medical Practitioners like Dr. Corsello. The purpose of medical licensure is only to make sure the public is not exposed to incompetent practitioners. It's essential fairness and respect for the rights of consumers to choose alternative therapies is at stake. Do not let this injustice stand based on technical violations of the Statute of Limitations. I most respectfully urge you to correct the injustice done to this highly regarded doctor who is a person with enormous character and courage. She deserves another chance and patients deserve the opportunity to have access to her services.

Arnold Gore