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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my full support of Nathan Friedkin's documentary on bipolar disorder. The film is about my son, Doug Friedman, who has bipolar disorder, a devastating and heartbreaking mental illness. The documentary is filmed and edited with sensitivity, portraying the agonizing effects of this illness. My hope is that this film will help people see that the symptoms of bipolar disorder are not due to a lack of will power and that it is not possible to simply "snap out of it." The documentary clearly shows how the illness not only causes mood swings, but often has a crippling effect on the patient's self esteem and sense of efficacy. I also feel that those viewing the film will have a better sense of what it is like to be a friend or family member of a person with bipolar disorder. It is often extremely trying, testing patience, boundaries and love. I think that those with friends or family members who have this illness will feel less guilty about their feelings of frustration and ultimately, armed with more information, more dedicated to remaining the steady, supportive presence that is so essential.

I have known Nathan for over 15 years, and he is conscientious and dedicated to his work. He has creatively thought through the facets of bipolar disorder he wants to highlight, interviewing many different people involved Doug's treatment and the treatment of bipolar disorder. He has also struggled with the implications of being both a friend of Doug's and the producer/director of the documentary. I am fully confident that he will complete a moving and informative film about bipolar disorder, a film that will help us all see the tragedy of this overwhelming illness.

I would like to see this documentary have the funding it needs in order to be completed. I hope it will be available to as wide an audience as possible. Most people have a friend or a family member with a mental illness. All of us could use more information and more support.

Sincerely,

*Claire S Rubin*

Claire S. Rubin  
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