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To whom it may concern:

I would like to offer my support of Nathan Friedkin and his documentary film project about bipolar disorder. I believe that this film has the potential to educate the general public about the seriousness of this illness, and will appeal to individuals who are affected by the disease either directly or indirectly, as well as those who have little or no experience with bipolar disorder.

Bipolar disorder is a devastating illness that currently affects approximately three million Americans and countless others worldwide. It is characterized by extreme mood swings ranging from severe depression to mania, over which the sufferer has little control. If untreated, bipolar disorder can rob the individual of the ability to function independently in society and can result in suicide, or death as a result of dangerous behavior during a mood episodes.

It is crucial for the general population to have a clear understanding of how this illness affects the individual sufferer. It is important that the lay community learns to view bipolar disorder for what it is: a serious mental illness and medical condition. New and innovative treatments for bipolar disorder are emerging constantly, offering hope to both sufferers and their families. Mr. Friedkin's film has great informative and aesthetic value and highlights the personal struggle and emotional strain that can be felt by both the afflicted individual as well as the individual's friends and loved ones. The public should also be aware of the artistic, military/political, and scientific contributions of bipolar patients and their families throughout the history of mankind. Whatever genes create bipolar disorder appear to confer special ability in many of these individuals and their relatives. It is a pleasure to offer my support for this valuable project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew L. Stoll'.

Andrew Stoll, M.D.

Director of the Psychopharmacology Research Laboratory at McLean Hospital
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