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To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to offer a letter of support to Laura Lieben and her team to help fund the production of their film, *Heartsong*. I am a geriatrician, author, and international educator on innovative approaches to care and support for people living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

People living with dementia often experience more ill-being from stigmas and misguided approaches to care than they do the illness itself. Such stigmas are too often fueled by media representations of dementia and of those living with the diagnosis. The common portrayals of such people are as "sufferers" or "victims"; people who are pitiful, incapable, and "fading away." Fortunately, the advocacy efforts of many people living with dementia around the world have helped to combat some of the stigmas, but the media has lagged well behind.

Having spoken with Ms. Lieben and viewed her website and trailer, it is very refreshing to see a project that shows the whole individual—one that doesn't sugarcoat the illness, but keeps the fundamental humanity of the person at the centre of the portrayal. Furthermore, the film will explore the gifts that people continue to bestow upon us, in spite of advancing cognitive disability; and it makes the case for creating accommodations for that disability, thereby maximising people's engagement in meaningful lives, despite their illness (just as we would for any other disability).

Ms. Lieben is well aware of my work and hopes to portray much of the philosophy I have espoused in my writings and lectures. I have communicated my wish to be involved in reviewing the script around such topics, to ensure their fidelity to this philosophy, and Ms. Lieben is very willing to collaborate with me on that process. I am not an expert in film, but what I have seen shows what I feel to be highly capable writing, acting, editing, and cinematography. I believe that this film can successfully relate its story to an audience of the general public and professionals alike. I look forward to being able to share the finished product with my colleagues and contacts around the world.

Thank you for your interest in *Heartsong*. I hope they can count on your generous support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Allen Power', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

G. Allen Power, MD, FACP