To whom it may concern:

My name is Kat, I am a freelance digital artist. I frequently post my art to my blog and around the net to gain exposure for myself. This is understandably difficult, art is a very narrow field to gain access to, and so often followers do not buy commissions meaning I make little money off them.

Already, a huge problem in the art industry is art theft- that is, taking someone else's art and using it for their own purposes- monetarily or for exposure. These thieves already alter original images as to remove signatures and watermarks, they have no respect for the law or the original artists, but this bill will make it even easier for them to get away with it. A huge movement has been trying to out art thieves and return credit to the original owners, as it is paying respect to that artist's work.

By allowing the Orphan Act into play, I would have to make sure to copyright every piece of art I make, not just say it *is* mine. For artists, this could easily be 2-3 pieces a week depending on style, medium, and productivity. Considering there will be a massive backlog of artists and art thieves claiming art to the proposed copyright center, it is unlikely I would be able to do so with college or, as I suspect, a fee for copyrighting material. Meanwhile, because the bill applies to previous works, I would need to copyright well over 500 pieces as my own works just to make sure "well meaning" infringers did not steal them.

Because this bill is indiscriminate of domestic or foreign works, art thieves could easily claim they attempted to contact the original artist but were unable to speak their language or find them with their foreign (user) name. Because this bill also applies to previous works, I assume things like Mickey Mouse will be copyrighted immediately in Disney's huge vault of inventories and meanwhile, they can copyright unsuspecting artists' works as they have done in the past (See: Katie Woodger's Alice in Wonderland art).

This bill unfairly allows corporations to heavily copyright their materials (due to availability of funds, time, and priorities) while forcing freelance artists to bow down before the copyright kings and hope they either do not become popular enough to be stolen from or copyright everything at once.

This bill is ultimately an awful idea and needs to be stopped.

-Kat, a freelance artist.