To whom it may concern.

Hello my name is Jenny M. Stead. I'm a professional illustrator and graphic designer. I had heard of the orphan laws that are trying to come into effect over copyrighted material. This is a serious issue that must be addressed but not for the reasons that congress thinks should be changed. As an artist with my own intellectual property it scares me to know that this is even being discussed in office. There are many setbacks for all artists in ties with this bill, and this bill will enable art theft and the thieves responsible for said theft in the future if this is passed.

Please understand that as an artist and character designer I am creating new work on a daily to hourly basis and for me to register every single item doodle or finished piece it's nearly impossible for me to afford or even have the time to send each and every creation that I own in for licensing. The same goes for photographers as well.

The bill, I understand, is trying to protect this intellectual property from being stolen from the artist and creator in question, but what it's doing is enabling thieves from claiming our work as their own. Having to register all of our work and get paperwork on it, or face the consequences of having our work claimed by someone else because "it's not registered" is ridiculous. Anyone can go to any of my online sources, grab one of my pieces, magically place it in Photoshop and alter it to make it "theirs" and then register it as their own. This is wrong and will cost not only jobs for artists around the globe, but cost us our dues for the work that we've worked our lives (because most of us are self-taught) to create.

Please take this into account and understand what is happening and what is trying to take into effect. It's going to cost a lot in the long haul and this isn't a price that any of us artists and creators want to pay. Taking work and claiming it as their own or changing and altering works created by others is no different that plagiarism or even COUNTERFEIT. Last I checked these were against not only basic ethics in every industry but also against the law. Don't allow this bill to pass. It'll cripple the graphic arts and art industry. Artists struggle enough to hold onto our rights for our works. Don't make our lives even more difficult.

Thank you for taking your time to read my responses toward this dire situation.

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