I’m a professional graphic designer and aspiring illustrator just getting into the field of creating illustrations aka visual art for a living. Currently I’m in my last semester of school at California College of the Arts where I have spent the last 2 years studying how to be a professional illustrator. One thing that I find that a lot of people outside of the visual arts profession don’t seem to understand is that people in creative fields like illustration and design often spend upwards of $100,000 to receive a quality education in the arts these days. Its more important now than ever that professional visual artists are able protect the rights to our work, which is the sole base of our income. When I create and get a piece of art published, I am paid for that instance of publishing only. However, I retain rights to my work to sell it again to someone else as I please. Essentially, I am creating and copyrighting a product that I own. If I am unable to retain rights to the work that I have created, it basically opens up the possibility for anyone out there to steal my work and republish it, therefore taking money directly out of my pocket. Which would not only make it impossible for me to sustain my business, but also I will not be able to live off my trade or pay back the exorbitant student loans I have accrued in order to be able to be a professional in my trade. I implore you, please don’t let this pass! Ultimately it would mean the end of being a visual artist for a living, which is already a huge challenge that we all fight for on a daily basis because we are very passionate about what we do. Protect the visual arts profession, do not let this new copyright act pass!!