July 20, 2015

U.S. Copyright
Orphan Works

Dear U.S. Copyright Office:

I cannot allow the Orphan Works law to pass. I am a 19-year-old artist, and I know the value of original work. I have been drawing for as long as I can remember, and I will be making a living out of it, and a law like this completely goes against that. For anyone to use your work without your consent and profit off of it is something that we, as artists, work together to prevent, because for us, art theft is much more than a misunderstanding. It can cost us our livelihoods.

This law, in particular, does not benefit creators. As it is, we tend to have few resources available to us to ensure that our work stays ours, and the money made off of it is ours as well. Orphan Works would take a lot of those away from us. We are a group that is just as important to the growing culture of the world, made by the fact that we are individuals and our work is made with love and care, even (or perhaps especially) when we are making work of it.

Copyright is important to me. It's important to all of us artists who create work and need to make money off of that work. It's not something we are willing to give up.

I don't live in the United States; in fact I'm in Canada, but these laws affect more than just American citizens. We live in a global economy. The digital age allows us to access information more quickly than ever before, and the U.S. can not be allowed to pave the way for other countries to create laws like this.

We have to have our livelihoods protected.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Jennah Heshmat