Copyright Office,

I write to you concerning the return of the Orphan Works bill. I'm 32 and have been working full-time as an artist since age 21. This has involved working for game companies and book publishers. Income is low and the contracts I have to take are often work-for-hire contracts which means I've been left with no copyright for much of my work and no money to show for it either. In the past year or two I have decided I'd rather make less money if it meant retaining my copyrights.

To my surprise, being able to suddenly license my work has meant that my income didn't drop like expected. I believe that other artists are discovering this truth as well. With the rise of websites like Kickstarter, Patreon and Hatchfund more artists are seeing the value in owning their work. I fear that Orphan Works could undermine this shift. It's my belief that as more artists turn from lower end commissions to pursue their own projects (where they own the copyrights) companies will be forced to either pay better rates or offer better contracts in order retain talent. So I think we're on the verge of a real change at the bottom end of the video game,comic book and publishing industries but weakening copyright could ruin it before it can gain steam.

Sincerely,

Joe Slucher