Letter of Opposition to Orphan Works Bill

I am a both a corporate graphic designer as well as a freelance children's book illustrator.
If the work artists create falls under the category of orphan works, it will be detrimental to the freelance industry.

Already I see companies turning to stock photographs and illustrator as a mean of cheap and easy way to create advertisements and illustrate newspaper articles.

If the whole realm of images found through a quick Google search allows people to publish them without permission or compensation, what is the need to hire artists?

It is so easy for people to crop out copyright information and artist names and claim it for their own. I have had a painting I did for the charity Alex's Lemonade Stand show up on 25 separate real-estate websites (some of which turned out to be scams). When I reached out to them to let them know they were stealing my artwork, and to remove it or compensate me for its use, only 4 responded. To have a piece done for a good cause be used by real-estate scams, it sickening to me.

It's important to visual artists that we remain able to determine how and by whom our work is used. Intellectual property should be protected. As someone that creates new artwork on a daily basis, the fees involved with registering each for copyright protection is astronomical.

This is a business. Art is inventory. Do not allow others to steal from us just because we can't afford to register everything we create.

Thank you

-Traci Dibble