Dear Senator Senator Patrick Leahy, House Rep Howard Berman
& House Rep Lamar Smith

You don't know what you're talking about.

I'm an artist an have been for years. I'm a recent graduate of the Columbus College of Art and Design and after a 6 month internship at the Ohio Division of Wildlife, it seems like my career as an artist is finally getting started. I recently was told about the Orphanworks Act by a friend, another artist and CCAD grad. Since hearing about the bill, I've learned what it would mean for copywrite law. Copywrite law is a something that I need to know more about as a creator. It's necessary as an artist to use the internet to get your work out there to be seen; you worry about people and their moral compasses. However, for your career you hit the 'Enter' button and post more work. When I heard about the Orphanworks Act my first reaction was befuddlment and the next was a feeling of betrayal.

My art is mine, from the moment I dream it up, to the next moment when I draw it, until I die and turn to dust. It's mine. I've always been an artist and I've never wanted to be anything else.

This Act suggest that I'll have to register my works to keep others away from it, to keep other people from profiting from my sweat, toil, study and hard work. The public is not "privileged" to my drudgery. I think this is a vaguely communist notion. I make art and I profit. I make good art and I make more. It's beautiful.

There's another hitch; I have something called ***hypergraphia,*** a condion often linked with epileptics and other neurological disorders. (I've been epileptic since I was 19, my freshman year of art school). ***Hypergraphia,*** put simply means that you often cannot make yourself stop writing or drawing, it's a compulsion (in my case, a productive one). When learing about the Orphanworks Act, imagine my dispair when I thought about documenting every single sketch. Because, frankly, I sketch quite a bit. If I were to have to "register" or "document" all of my work simply to retain rights to it when I draw and paint all day, every day, you would truly be crippling to me and my career. And what I found even more dumbfounding about this bill is that my "orphaned" workes would be up for grabs by commercial companies. The thought makes me, and I'm sure many other fine artist, dry heave.

I'm wondering why my Representatives are spending time hindering Copywrite law, which to my mind was fine before, when there are plently of other issues in this country that need to be adressed. Other things desperatly need your attention. Bridges and highways to be fixes, inmates and drug addicts to be rehabilitated, school systems to be helped. Lots of other people and programs need your attention. I'm asking you to please stop this bill because it would hurt me as a worker, as a citizen and as an artist, as well as other artists that I know.

I'm hoping you'll take this insight and help creatives remain free and productive. Please remember Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution. Let's get back to basics; the first rules of copyright were written that way for a reason. I'm a skilled worker, I'm an Ohioan and I'm a tax-payer.

My art is mine.

Sarah Eileen Oberlin