This law is not a good idea.

Creative works are already treated as having no worth in today's world, because they're not perceived as something anyone needs. But the truth is that without art, the world would be incredibly boring and dull. Beauty and meaning would be nearly impossible to find. What this law does is codify that perceived worthlessness, by making theft no longer theft and the creative world a maelstrom of suspicion and defensiveness, rather than an open and supportive environment.

Artists already have their work stolen every day, often taken by large fashion companies and sold on t-shirts or jewelry without a hint of compensation or artist credit. Often, the artist never even knows about it until they see an item for sale that has their work on it. The fact that it's illegal is already a very cold comfort, because most artists don't have the time or funds for the kind of court battle it would take to see compensation for their work. Under this law, a court battle won't even be an option -- all a company has to say is "we tried" and, whether they did or not, it's impossible to prove wrongdoing. Laws should reflect morals as well as possible and morally, making money off someone's work is not right. Art is hard, my friends, and make no mistake that most art takes hours of intense labor on top of years of practice and learning. Should someone else be able to receive all the money and credit for that because they took the comparatively tiny step of printing the art on a t-shirt?

This won't only affect the visual art world, either. Writers can no longer feel safe sending their work to editors or agents, because there is nothing to prevent that person stealing their idea or their work wholesale and publishing it under their own name, without the author ever seeing a crumb for their months of work. It's even a threat to corporate interests in publishing and Hollywood -- fan artists could now monetize their derivative works, taking oney out of the pockets of the studios. Every major movie release would be accompanied by dozens of copycat movies doing it "better" by one standard or another, posted online for money and hurting box office sales by millions.

This law leaves creators exposed and, because of this, will severely damage the quality of art being created in the world, because artists will no longer feel safe to create or to put their works out there. Registering work creates an undue barrier for working-class artists (which is many of us -- most artists don't have high-paying day jobs) and an unnecessary burden whereas now, an email showing we had a file in our possession is enough to prove that we own the copyright.

Please reconsider this law and leave copyright as it is. The current system works well both to protect creators and to make the fruits of creative labor available to others -- classics are made available to the public while still allowing artists to make a living on their

passion. It's not broke, so why fix it?