My name is William Hindmarch. I am a 20 year old aspiring artist. I have been studying, drawing and painting every day all day for the past several years bringing my craft closer and closer to a professional level in the hopes of making illustration my occupation.

I heard a story about Picasso once. He was spending time in a coffee shop when a woman who had a great love for his work came up to him and asked him if he would draw a portrait of her. He did so with great skill in 30 seconds. When he gave it to her she was amazed. She said "wow I can't believe you could have done such in thing in 30 seconds" He laughed and said to her "It didn't take me 30 seconds, it took me 30 years."

Art is not an ethereal ability given to a favored few. It is created by people who have, with great love, dedicated their lives to learning about and growing their skill in a craft that allows them to share and communicate the perspective their discipline has afforded them to the world at large. In this Art itself can be killed if those that create it do not have the ability to feed themselves with the fruits of their labor. No god or genetic luck will ensure that the knowledge current professionals possess resurfaces after their stems are cut from them. Only they can pass the torch. If they do not own and therefor have the right to control who uses their work and how, if their work can be easily monetized without their knowledge or consent and if once their work is published it is considered to have virtually no further commercial value they will not be able to make their living. Copyrights in their current form are the source of their (and soon to be our) income. Our income ensures that our lives and our work flourish.

We are an important part of America's culture. This culture cannot thrive if those who produce vast amounts of its content are unable to make a living from their work. If this proposal succeeds in rewriting current copyright law every artists will suffer greatly and in extension this country will suffer.

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