July 22, 2015

To Whom it may Concern:

I am writing to you as a freelance artist, who creates characters and worlds for her own benefit. I do commissions to give myself extra money after bills to save for amenities and things I need.
The Orphan Works Act of 2008 was a huge mistake and was, thankfully, quashed before it could go further. But if this new, present bill passes, it would make thousands of artists like myself suffer, as numerous ones I know use those commission funds to survive. Taking those monetary rights from myself and my peers is like not paying someone for their 40 hours of work each week and just taking their paycheck and claiming that you did all the work.
After reading what the Act would entail, it would be most detrimental to everyone BUT the big companies. That is just giving them an artists work for free, all that time and effort they put into it, with nothing to show for it.
Not all artists can afford to copyright every single doodle, sketch or photo they take. Like I stated before, these works are sometimes the only thing keeping them from poverty.

Please, do not pass this legislation. I don't want to see my friends starving or homeless.

Felicia Wise,
Lexington, TN