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Hello, I am Elizabeth Bauman, a 19 year old illustration major attending university in Cambridge Mass. After informing myself about the new copyright bill I have a few opinions as a creator, and consumer. I believe that the new bill would orient copyright into the favor of cooperation's instead of artists and the public. By making it more difficult for creators to maintain control and rights to their art (which should be a right automatically) you are in ways limiting freedom of speech and expression.

The rights that every artist in America previously had, and took for granted are being threatened. This bill would make all 'unregistered' art available for the public. This bill claims that change would benefit the public, however, I believe that a level of deceit may be at play here. I don't at all believe that it is the public that wants artists' to lose control of their rights. It is American Corporations. If visual artists lose this basic right, then corporations will be able to take, manipulate, and basically own any unregistered art that isn't theirs. However, in the eyes of the law it would be legal.

Taking any artists art for free should always be considered stealing. If this bill were to become law, what would continue to motivate artists to stay active and creative? Once artists lose their rights to their art, the fear of this new public and corporation ownership will drive down production. Artists' will still produce, but I guarantee you that it will not be with the same vigor or dedication that we see today. I also guarantee that corporations WILL abuse this bill and WILL abuse artists. They already do steal art when it is illegal, and this bill will make it even easier to do.

What this bill claims to be doing for the public, is actually just pandering to big business. Frankly, as an aspiring artist, this bill scares me. In an already underappreciated and difficult field, this copyright bill would destroy America's art field. A government fed disaster.

Yes, some rules in the bill have been put into place to prevent abuse of artwork and artists, however these tactics are hardly what an artists needs. The 'good faith' policy is going to be extremely difficult to track and monitor. If an incident were taken to court, the art that had been stolen for commercial use (backed by big business lawyers) is never going to rule in favor of the artist. This bill will destroy what little dignity and rights artists have left. Artists will have to hide all of their work away from the Internet, in fear, until they register each and every image they wish to maintain safe. This registration process is reminiscent of institutions which monitor and censor artists. I am not saying that this is what the registration process is, but I am afraid of what it might, one day become.

In many ways, this bill scares me, and if it does goes through, art is America will become even more streamlined, by blatantly pandering to corporations, who, evidentially, run our lives and laws. Please, protect our artists, protect our art, and protect our expression. When artists keep their rights, Art can stay a business, playing a part in economic movement. If you take away an artists business (or make it extremely difficult) you are hurting some of the economic structures that our nation is trying to rebuild. By taking away an artists right to sell THEIR work, and by

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giving it to the ‘public’ you are destroying a part of my future. And I know I am just one kid going to art school, but the millions of artists’ in America agree with me. None of us want our freedom taken away. And to be honest, I’m not sure the public even wants the rights to ‘orphan art’. I hope I never see artists’ rights taken away in my lifetime. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and please consider rethinking this dramatic copyright change.