In light of the considerations of congress for a new copyright bill I feel obligated to speak up, as both an artist and a supporter of the arts. This new bill in no way benefits the creators of our favorite pieces of art. All this bill stands to do is make it easier for corporations to steal art and use it solely for their own, mostly financial, benefit. This bill would strip the artist rights to keep their work their own and having the power to say what can be done with it.

This bill allows for the theft of work just because some corporate monkey doesn't want to take the time or money to find the artist who made the work and ask if they can use it or have a work made for them. Yes, all the "reasonably diligent" searching a "good faith" infringer would have to do amounts to nothing more than legalized theft. They will give hundreds of excuses as to why they couldn't find the artist when it'd take not even half of an hour of actual searching to find them.

This bill would allow the alteration of works, which is absurd. You wouldn't go to a museum and add paint to the Mona Lisa, or The Starry Night. This is defacing an artist work. All this allows is for a corporation or person to completely disregard the artist intentions when they have merely the faintest whim on how they feel piece should look. It is not their piece, and if they have a different view they should go through the effort to create their own work. Surely they wouldn't want someone coming up and surreptitiously marking their hard work.

This is even before the "Extended Collective Licensing," that basically takes away the artist's right to do business on their terms. Doing something like this would mean an artist can't control who their clientele are, regardless of if they're disrespectful and or unsavory characters. This throws the artist's rights to choose who they work with, and their right to refuse service.

There is even a component to set up a small claims court. They're expecting lawsuits. Congress has shot down other bills on the basis of there will be legal issues over this. They've shoot down better bills that would actually benefit actual people who need the help.

Honestly, this bill is a nightmare and should not see that light of day. It only serves to take away the artist's and creator's rights. It serves to make the rich even more money and break down the ones doing the actual work. If a system like this managed to get through then all that would come of it is stolen art and no new art being made, because who would want to make and publish art if it's just going to get stolen.