I have earned my living as a professional illustrator for 27 years. I hold a BFA from Kent State University and I am a member of several professional illustration organizations. My work has won awards from Print magazine, Highlights, and the Educational Press Association of America. I work primarily in the children's publishing industry.

For me, copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which my business and all illustrators' businesses rests.

Our copyrights are the products we license.

This means that infringing our work is no different than stealing our

It's important to our businesses that we remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom our work is used.

My work does NOT lose its value upon publication. I have resold illustration even though it has been published once, because I hold the copyright.

Everything I create becomes part of my business inventory.

In the digital era, inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before.

The prospect of having to register formally each and every work to avoid "orphan" status is both ridiculously time consuming and prohibitively expensive. It is difficult enough to make a living in the current economy as an artist. Do not let this proposed act happen and please heed to our voices .

Sincerely,

Debbie Palen
http://debbiepalen.com