Date: July 19, 2015

Ms. Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

Atlas Biomedical Art

Sara Jarret, MFA, CMI
Certified Medical Illustrator

Supporting the creative needs of
health-related corporations and institutions

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

Dear Ms. Pallante:

I have worked full time as an in house illustrator as well as on a freelance basis, both full time and part time. I am currently full time with additional projects as an independent contractor, as well as a mother of a 5-month-old baby girl. I am extremely concerned about the future of my career and the future success of my daughter based on what I will be able to provide for her in the future. This not only affects artists, but also their families and the livelihood of future generations. This country is already in turmoil over the accessibility of jobs, do you really want to contribute to the ongoing jobless crisis? Rather, you should support visual artists rights and our industry so we can make a living and continue contribute to the economic health of our society. I rely on the ability to retain copyright and license limited rights to each piece. My ownership and retention of copyright directly effects income.

Over the 12 years I've been in this industry, I have been taught the importance of my rights as the creator of a work. To take these rights away will stifle the creation of the very content that the big box corporations want to covet and claim as their own to do what they please. What incentive is there for visual artists to continue to create if not for adequate compensation and protection of rights?

If you insist on moving forward with the initiative, an orphan work must be defined in clarity, with no ambiguity. Anyone can say they performed a "reasonable search" to whatever they feel this constitutes, which may even be no searching at all.

What we need is a single streamlined system to make it easy to find the author of a work, not harder. What we need is reduced fees for copyright registration so that more people are able to submit their work into this streamlined system. Perhaps instead of fees per work, we can subscribe to the clearing house and have unlimited numbers of works that we can upload to the copyright system, automatically protecting them. Currently, I only register works that I feel have a higher likelihood of being infringed, simply because I can not afford to register all of my works, not only because the fees are high, but because of the time it takes out of my day when I could be working on a project. I am concerned that this new law will take away these rights that I paid for and negate the time I used to complete the registration. Will I be refunded my fees? Will you retroactively pay me the hours I spent protecting my assets? Or will the US Copyright office grandfather us into the statutes instituted and in effect since January 1, 1978?

I am appalled and disturbed that the rights given to us in the U.S. Constitution are at stake. Please consider the livelihood of this nation and continue to uphold Article 1, Section 8 "To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries".

Sincerely,

Sara Jarret, CMI

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Certified Medical Illustrator

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