To Anyone Who Can Help,

I'm writing to express my opposition to Orphan Works copyright, and to request, as before and always, that copyright is automatic and that it belongs to the creator.

Myself and many of my friends are artists and photographers, mostly digital, and mostly online. Anyone who works in that realm knows how easy it already is for your work to go viral, stray far away from the source, and then be used by others, even by corporations (Hot Topic comes to mind as a regular offender) for profit. And then for those corporations to hide their gross miscondunct under "Oh, sorry, we didn't know it was yours." Which, luckily, right now is not a legal defense.

The Oprhan Works copyright act would make it easier for those with lawyers and money and access to take advantage of the works and effort of those without, to turn this from a shady business practice into a proactive business model. To steal the works of children and of the those just beginning in the industry to make money, or to steal the images of families and individuals that go viral to do the same.

I am all for broadening the pool of the public domain, but I am for doing so by shortening the period a copyright remains attached to a person or corporation, not by adding a gatekeeping rule to copyright law so we don't have to protect those who are already least likely to be protected.

John Green recently (accidentally) profited off the artwork of a teenage girl, whose work was misattributed to him and then sold at his store where he made money off of it. When he realised what had happened, he apologized and paid her back and made it up to her, but your Orphan Works law would have made selling the work of an unknown author arguably legal, so a grown man with plenty of resources making money that belonged to a teenage girl would have had a legal defense for doing so.

That's not okay. That's what copyright law is meant to prevent. That discourages creation and innovation among normal people, and encourages laziness and plagiarism among corporations.

Please rethink these laws.

Thank you,
Jessica Flesher