To: The Copyright Office

July 7, 2015

To All Concerned,

I am respectfully asking lawmakers not to approve “The Next Great Copyright Act.”

I have been a children’s book illustrator for 44 years. This is my only source of income.

My education includes a BFA and an MFA from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N. Y. I have illustrated more than 40 books for children, have written and have illustrated for children’s testing programs and magazines.

Among my awards for illustrated books are: The Teacher’s Choice Award, The Philadelphia Children’s Reading Round Table Best Book of the Month, Outstanding Book in the Field of Science, Pennsylvania Library Association Carolyn Field Award, Amelia Bloomer Project List and the Silver Medal Eureka Award.

I have taught at library conferences, The International Women’s Writing Guild and at school visits.

Copyright law is not an abstract legal issue to me, but the basis on which my business rests. My income and ONLY income is from the work I have done in children’s books. Our copyrights are the products we license. It means that infringing on my work is like stealing my money. It’s important to my business that I am able to remain determining voluntarily how and by whom my work is used. My work does NOT lose its value upon publication but becomes part of my business inventory. I continue to receive royalties that make up a large part of my income since I’m now 70 years old.

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

I respectfully submit my concerns,

Alexandra Wallner