Dear U.S. Copyright Office,
My name is Alvina Kwong and I am an artist and illustrator. I specialize in creating wonderful and fun illustrations for children's books and magazines, so that children of ages and adults can enjoy vivid and bright illustrations to accompany the stories. I also do individual illustrations that hang in a gallery for all to see…and if desired, may be purchased.

I have been a professional artist for the last 15 years, and have gone to school for it. I graduated from Brigham Young University with a BFA in Illustration. I worked very hard those 5 years in college to get into the program and to graduate. The last 15 years I have also worked hard professionally in developing my style and talent. I have also been published in children's magazines and books, and received awards for my artwork.

Copyright law is the basis on which my business rests. My copyrights are the products I license. Infringing my work is like stealing my money. I know you work hard at your job, and you deserve every penny you make. That is the same with me. I work very hard to get to where I am, and I deserve payment for my work too- just like you and other hardworking citizens in this country. How would you feel if someone took your hard earned money away from you? That is what it would be like for me.

My copyrights is my source of income. It provides income so that I can make a living supporting my family. My work is not just some image you can just toss around for free. It is my creation and belongs to me. It hurts deeply that people would try to steal something that is a part of me.

My work does NOT lose its value upon publication. In fact, it becomes more valuable! When I stand next to my work at my gallery, and tell people where each art piece is from and how I did it and came up with the idea, they get excited and ecstatic to listen to the story behind my work. And then they want to buy the work because it means that much more to them, and it's worth more value to them.

If you take this away from me, its like ripping my children out of my arms, leaving me nothing. These artworks are created by me, and they are mine. If you take this away from me, how am I going to make a living? Should I just go on welfare and be a starving artist? Should I just go to the government and get food stamps, government housing and medical help? I would rather make my own living and stand on my own feet and contribute to this great country. And the way for me to do that is though my artwork.

It is very important to me that the copyright law stays with the artists- it is where my business rests. Please, please, please don't take that away from me…and all the other artists in this country.

I hope you will make the right decision for all of us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Alvina Kwong
Illustrator