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Catherine Rowland
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U.S. Copyright Office
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Dear Copyright Office Representative,

I am writing to you as an individual going into the work force as a new artist who will be relaying on what I create to receive an income. I cannot fathom how difficult, time-consuming, and completely irrational it will be if the new copyright law will pass. Artists come up with hundreds of drawings, sketches, photographs, illustrations, animations, songs, and poems in a very short amount of time. We HAVE to post them online because we need an audience in order to get employers who want to use our talents and pay us to create something they envision. In this day and age, posting online is the best and most efficient way of doing so.

I am currently an animation student and I am well aware that the film industry hires their employees, most often than not, by looking at our work online. We have to constantly update our portfolios, filling it with work that looks better and is relevant to what we want to do and what our possible future employers are looking for. To register every single work we create with the copyright office, I feel, is unreasonable and a complete waste of time. Not to mention, people can forget. What if we forgot to register work, post it online and someone ends up claiming it as their own? The concept itself is completely wrong and ridiculous. We spend a vast amount of money and hours to create something we deem worthy of the public viewing.

Because I am still a student, I should mention the fact that many artists go to universities to explore and build their skills. Students spend a very large amount of money for higher education as it is. Art schools aren't any different. In fact, we have to spend more money for education, supplies, extra outside classes, workshops, etc. over an expanded amount of time. This is why we are able to create professional-looking work that people are willing to pay for. We spend a minimum of 10 years and hundreds of thousands of dollars to create something we are proud of and for someone to technically be allowed to steal a non-registered work is robbing us of what we have been working so hard for over a large portion of our lives. It would hurt us financially and emotionally. The copyright law we have right now prevents that to be legal and should NOT change.

Sincerely,

Anna Sher