To whom it may concern,

This proposed Orphan bill is a terrible idea. If passed, this bill will stifle creativity and free will on the Internet. This bill purports to give the US public the right to use any publically shared photo, sketch, painting, edit, etc in any way they see fit without the creator being able to do a thing about it if they do not take the lengthy process to legally register each and every work as their own.

First off, this bill is like saying that it gives me the right to use my neighbor's bicycle whenever I please if he leaves it sitting out by his mailbox. Or, scratch that, it's even comparable to giving me the right to use any unattended bicycle sitting out in public anywhere. I'm sure you would agree that that is nonsense because even though the bike is out in public unattended, it is still someone's property. Thus, to use it would be borderline theft and not acceptable in any case. The same rule applies to artists on the Internet. Especially since - gone are the days when someone's identity on the internet is truly anonymous. Even if one's true name and identity isn't made openly public, individuals on online art communities still know each other by name and in many cases are familiar with where other artists are from, their lifestyle, and so on. Very few people are truly anonymous on the Internet anymore.

My second point is, I feel, the most pivotal. This bill gives the US public the right to use any publically shared work on the internet in any way they please. However, last I checked? Individuals from ALL OVER THE WORLD use the Internet. This bill seems to imply that the United States owns and controls the internet, which it very much does not - especially considering that access to the internet is now considered a modern Human Right. To pass this bill would be borderline violating a Human Right. I don't know about you, but that sounds like a can of worms that ought not to be opened.

Sincerely,

A concerned US citizen.