To Whom It May Concern,

I am an independent artist. Everything I do, from my supplies, to my references, to storyboards, and actual art creation, is all done by me, out of pocket. I do this because it brings me joy to be able to be creative and imaginative and innovative, and express myself freely. I am also a college student, with a major that has nothing to do with art. I follow this because it is my passion, and when my life was too hard to bear, my art helped me get through to the other side. Creating art is my life and my content is my life's blood. I don't know that I would be here without it.

I only recently heard about the Orphan's Law. From what I understand, this will allow corporations to lawfully take the already produced content by independent artists, such as myself, claim ownership of it, and make a profit from it. I do not know that I posses the words to describe how this reprehensible, dastardly, unscrupulous act. To artists like myself, and those FAR MORE talented than I, this is an atrocity. For many of us, our art is like our own children, we often made them out of nothing, and to see how they will develop can be new and surprising. We put our blood, sweat, tears and all our emotions into these pieces, often working tirelessly to exhaustion and deep into the night.

Additionally, as it has been made apparent by the very nature of this law, these corporations have no care for artistic integrity or vision. Since creating content is often expensive and quite time consuming, most artists and content creators tend to make commissions and create subscriptions to support themselves or at the very least, their art. This makes them self employed, Independent, small businesses owners. Brutish bullying of small business owners, in every field you can think of, has long been a past-time of this country. In art, food production, farming and agriculture, clothing, textiles, manufacturing and much more, corporations have easily been able to dominate these fields, often as a monolith. Corporations have the resources and the prestige that comes with the name of their brand to easily crush and demolish any small business. *And they have. Consistently. In every field.* Hundreds, even thousands of cases exist wherein big business has spotted competition in a small budding business and either bought them out, or even taken them to court tends which results so much financial pressure on the business they are unable to continue.

The results of allowing corporations full and unlimited control over any field are numerous, and most of them negative for everyone *but* the corporations themselves. The small business owner will likely have to sell their rights to the large business to keep from being taken to court, perhaps even "choosing" to work there themselves so that they may retain some sense of dignity and ownership of their product. Even more often they end up being discouraged and stop the production of their product overall to avoid more trouble and harassment. This can, and often does, lead to a stifling of creativity in the fields and loss of innovative new ideas.

In the case of art in particular, there has been a recent influx in original content that is both refreshing AND long awaited. With corporations, since they tend to be high stakes and interested in a sure profitable return, they are often formulaic in their approach to creating content. Since they usually have a large field at their control in their particular market, this results often times, in a homogenized and

commercialized landscape where the same views are more or less repeated again, and again and again and AGAIN. Because of that, only one narrative in particular is promoted, and all others ignored at best and made deviant at worst. This results in inclusivity and separate sort of elitism of the few that fit the narrative, and exclusivity, silence and misrepresentation of the many that don't. People are tired of this and have begun searching out and creating content that is inclusive of all people, or even catering to certain and largely ignored fringe groups. It has been *proven* that lack of representation has a hugely negative effect on society at large, in numerous and profound ways. The fact that these independent artists are here, and providing a bit of competition to big business, is *a good thing.* This will force them to be more inclusive and accepting of a larger range of people, thereby normalizing them through accurate representation.

So I ask you; please, do not let the Orphan Law pass. Do not allow big business and capitalism to *once again* create an unchallengeable monolith in another field. Do not allow them to crush small independent artists and business owners. Do not let them stifle creativity and innovation for the sake of profit *again*. Do not let the whole of society suffer because of their homogenization of media in their attempt to have more power and make more money.

Say NO to the Orphan Law, like you said NO to net neutrality. Thank you.