



Before the U.S. Copyright Office

Docket No. 2026–2

Copyright Office Fees

Comments of the Authors Guild, the Dramatists Guild, Garden Communicators International, Novelists Inc., Romance Writers of America, and Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers Association

May 4, 2026

The Authors Guild, the Dramatists Guild, Garden Communicators International, Novelists Inc., Romance Writers of America, and Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers Association (collectively, “Author Organizations”) thank the Copyright Office for the opportunity to submit on the Office’s proposed fee schedule.

Interest of Commenters

The Authors Guild is a national nonprofit association of over 17,000 professional writers of all genres. Its members include leading historians, biographers, academicians, journalists, and other writers of nonfiction and fiction whose works have appeared in the most influential and well-respected publications in every field. The Guild has a fundamental interest in ensuring that works of authorship and the rights of authors are protected, and that the hard work and talents of American authors are rewarded so that they can keep writing, as intended by the framers of the United States Constitution.

The Dramatists Guild of America is the only professional organization promoting the interests of playwrights, composers, lyricists, and librettists writing for the stage. Established over 100 years ago for the purpose of aiding dramatists in protecting both the artistic and economic integrity of their work, the Dramatists Guild of America continues to educate, and advocate on behalf of, its over 8,000 members. The Dramatists Guild of America believes a vibrant, vital theater is an essential element of this country’s ongoing cultural debate, and seeks to protect those individuals who write for the theater to ensure its continued success.

Garden Communicators International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower, connect, and advance garden communicators across all forms of media, supporting those who inform and influence public understanding of gardening, sustainability, and the natural world. It provides garden communicators with opportunities for education, recognition, and career development while sharing trusted information and fostering an inclusive, collaborative

community. Since its founding in 1948, Garden Communicators International has supported thousands of communicators across North America and beyond, strengthening public awareness of plants, sustainability, and garden education.

Novelists, Inc. (“NINC”) is a nonprofit organization focusing on networking, education, and advocacy for professional authors of book-length fiction. NINC members include traditionally-published novelists, indie or self-published authors, and writers whose careers combine both traditional and indie publication. Many NINC members also write professionally in other fields, such as journalism, screenwriting, comics, drama, short fiction, and nonfiction.

Romance Writers of America, Inc. (“RWA”), founded in 1980, is a nonprofit trade association, with a membership of more than 4,000 romance writers and related industry professionals, whose mission is to advance the professional interests of career-focused romance writers through networking and advocacy. RWA works to support the efforts of its members to earn a living, to make a full-time career out of writing romance—or a part-time one that supplements his/her main income.

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America DBA Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association (“SFWA”) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on providing support, defense, advocacy, education, and resources for speculative writers and the publishing industry. SFWA was founded in 1965 and is home to over 2,500 authors, artists, and allied professionals worldwide. The mission of the SFWA includes the promotion, writing, and appreciation of science fiction, fantasy and related genres and fields. Its work involves informing, supporting, promoting, defending, and advocating for writers of science fiction, fantasy and related genres, with a focus on promoting and defending the interests of writers in these genres within the publishing industry. Each year, SFWA assists members in various legal disputes, administers grants to SFF community organizations and members facing medical or legal expenses, and hosts the prestigious Nebula Awards at our annual Nebula Awards Conference.

Preliminary Statement

The Author Organizations appreciate that the Copyright Office is operating in a challenging budgetary environment. And we recognize that the Office has made a good-faith effort to ensure that the copyright system remains broadly accessible to the public even as the Office seeks to offset substantial increases in the costs of its services. But too much of the burden created by the Office’s proposed fee increases falls on individual creators—the parties least positioned to absorb them and who are far more likely than corporate entities to forego registration altogether. Indeed, our members have reported that several of the Office’s proposals—specifically the elimination of the Single Application and the increased fees for the Standard Application and group registration of short online literary works—will make them less likely to register their works.

This is precisely the wrong outcome at a time when wealthy tech companies are infringing authors’ works on a massive scale. As the ongoing AI class actions have made all too clear,

individual authors may lose all practical ability to recover for such infringement if their works are not timely registered and statutory damages and attorneys' fees are unavailable. The Office should not be making registration harder for the very people for whom it is more important than ever. We urge the Office not to implement these proposals.

Discussion

1. Eliminating the Single Application and Increasing Fees for the Standard Application Will Burden Working Writers

The Office's proposals will nearly double the fees an author must pay to register a single literary work. Currently, the Single Application allows an author to register an individual work in which they are the sole rightsholder for \$45. Under the Office's proposals, that same author seeking to register the same type of work will need to use the Standard Application, for which the fee will increase from \$65 to \$85 for electronic filings. For authors who need to file a paper application, the increase is even more stark, rising from \$125 to \$185 per application.

While most authors traditionally relied on their publishers to register their works, as the AI class action suits have also shown, the publishers have not always done so; moreover, authors increasingly self-publish or use hybrid publishers who do not offer to register on their behalf. As such, in the wake of the recent Anthropic settlement, the Author Organizations have engaged in efforts to raise awareness of the need for authors to register their copyrights, and the Authors Guild has offered services to assist its members in doing so. Raising and in most cases doubling fees at a time when many authors need to register themselves will defeat these efforts.

The Authors Guild has surveyed members about how they use the registration system and how these changes will impact them. Out of the 422 respondents who said they have registered at least one work in the last ten years, 173 (nearly 41%) reported that they have filed more than five applications in the past ten years, with 24% reporting that they have filed more than ten.¹

When asked what types of registration applications the authors have filed during that period, over 63% of respondents reported that they have used the Single Application. Asked whether the elimination of the Single Application and the fee increase for the Standard Application would realistically prevent them from registering their copyrights in the future, 30% of respondents said yes and another 31% said they are not sure.

These results tell only part of the story. We fear that those who do not now register on their own—whom we are encouraging to do so since, as a practical matter they are unable to enforce their

¹ In the survey, 423 out of 578 respondents (73%) reported that they have filed at least one copyright application in the last 10 years. Given the self-selecting nature of the survey, and the fact that it was available for only a few days, this percentage may overstate the percentage of Guild members who have filed applications for registration.

rights without registering—will be hindered from registering by the increased fees. Many authors do not earn enough to justify the costs.²

Many of the survey respondents provided comments explaining how the Office’s proposals will add yet another burden to their already precarious livelihoods. *See* Attachment A. Several authors explained that, even if the fees do not prevent them from registering altogether, the new fees would at a minimum force them to be selective about which works they do register. To cite just two authors:

- As an independent author and recording artist, the elimination of the Single Application and the near doubling of the standard registration fee will directly impact how often I am able to register my work.

The Single Application currently provides an accessible entry point for individual creators managing multiple projects without institutional support. Increasing the cost from \$45 to \$85 per work, while also removing the lower-cost option entirely, creates a significant financial barrier—especially for self-published authors and independent artists who operate on limited budgets.

While I understand the need for the U.S. Copyright Office to recover operational costs, this proposal shifts that burden disproportionately onto independent creators. As a result, I will need to be more selective in what I register, which may leave some works without full legal protection.

A more balanced approach would be to retain a lower-cost option for single creators or implement incremental fee increases over time rather than eliminating the most accessible filing method altogether.

Copyright registration is not optional for enforcement—it is essential. Policies that discourage registration ultimately weaken the system they are intended to support.

- I’ve published over 70 books and only about a third are copyrighted because the process is so complex and expensive. In addition to the copyright fee, current rules require “no backmatter” paperback versions that must be mailed in. Anything to simplify and/or decrease the cost of the process would be greatly appreciated by this indie author.

Others pointed out that these increases couldn’t come at a worse time given the mass-scale infringement by AI companies, which has impacted countless authors:

² *See* Authors Guild, *Key Takeaways from the Authors Guild’s 2023 Income Survey*, <https://authorsguild.org/news/key-takeaways-from-2023-author-income-survey/> (median book income for all authors (including part-time) was \$2,000 in 2022, and median total author-related income was \$5,000).

- I have mixed feelings about this. On the one hand, we've watched drastic budget cuts in many governmental departments over the last two years. And eliminating paperwork (re: the larger increase on paper applications) makes sense in a digital world.

But the timing feels suspect for two reasons: 1) The recent disaster of the Anthropic case, where authors whose publishers didn't file copyrights missed out on getting reimbursed for their stolen works. 2) The proliferation of AI-generated content based on or outright plagiarizing/copying original works that is flooding the market has become a hot topic among authors, creators, and publishing houses.

Both events reinforce the importance of getting your copyright in place, which makes increasing the rates at this time feel predatory (and slimy).

Aside from the distasteful timing, authors are struggling right now in general, and this is one more thing to discourage them from pursuing their art.

- The proposed fee/increase would force me to pick and choose which books I could protect from being stolen and replicated by AI or not. It's baffling to me why this monetary barrier would be created NOW when we as authors are currently facing such a threat to our IP – a threat that copyrights can help contest. It would make more sense to increase the cost for traditional publishers only and keep the affordable fee for self-published authors and small presses.
- With the cost of living crisis and worldwide fuel increases authors, like everyone else, are making cuts where they can to reduce expenses. In an industry where few people break even and many struggle to make ends meet this increase may affect their ability to protect work that is already threatened by AI, particularly when payouts from lawsuits against the latter[']s companies are based on copyright registration.

As these and other comments make clear, the Office's proposals would unjustifiably shift the costs and burdens of registration to those who can least afford to bear them, at a time when their need to enforce their copyrights is greater than ever before.

2. Doubling the Fee for Group Registration of Short Online Literary Works Will Place That Option Out of Reach for Many Authors

In 2020, the Office introduced the option (known as GRTX) to register a group of up to fifty short online literary works published within a three-month period. Since then, we understand that the option has been little used, largely because of the eligibility restrictions and the difficulty of the registration process. It therefore is puzzling that the Office would seek to double the registration fee from \$65 to \$130. This will serve only to make the GRTX option less accessible for the already limited group of authors who currently use it.

The survey data bears out this conclusion. Only 19 of 502 respondents (less than 4%) reported that they have filed a GRTX registration application. And more than half of that small group reports that the proposed increase will prevent them from registering their copyrights in the future, with another 37% saying they are not sure.

The Office's proposal thus gets things exactly backwards. The Office should be looking for ways to make this option a more practical choice for authors, not to restrict it even further. For example, the Office could consider relaxing or eliminating the requirement that all works in the group be published within a three-month period, which limits the option's cost-effectiveness for many writers. As one survey respondent explained, "[T]he 3-month rule seems to make it such that most bloggers could not register anywhere close to 50 articles in one application—so they would not be saving much money or time by filing a group application for two or three articles."

3. The AI Class Actions Have Made It More Important Than Ever for Individual Authors to Be Able to Easily Register Their Works

The recent Anthropic settlement and other AI class action cases have underscored the vital importance of timely registration to individual authors. In these cases, the classes typically have been defined to track the requirements for statutory damages and attorney's fees: class members are limited to copyright owners who registered their works either before the infringement commenced or within three months of first publication. As the Anthropic settlement has revealed, authors often cannot rely on their publishers to register their works on time. Following the announcement of the settlement, many authors discovered that they are ineligible for any recovery because their publisher never registered their books—in some cases despite express contractual language requiring them to do so.

But it is not just the class action suits that bar recovery for authors. The Authors Guild provides free limited legal services to members, including copyright and infringement advice (though it cannot sue on behalf of individual authors, but refers them out). Time and time again, the Authors Guild sees authors whose copyrights were clearly infringed outright but who cannot enforce their rights because they did not register their works on a timely basis and, without the statutory damages that timely registration provides, the legal fees far exceed the potential provable actual damages and so they cannot afford to bring the case.

As described above, the Authors Guild and the other Author Organizations have been encouraging authors to ensure their works are registered and to do so on their own to make sure they are timely registered to ensure that they are included in future class actions and can sue on their own. Historically, many authors have been skeptical of the need register since copyright protection attaches upon creation. If approved, the Anthropic settlement will provide a concrete example of importance of registration—one that will undoubtedly spur many authors who never registered their works in the past to do so now, to ensure that they can participate in future class action payouts. The Office's proposals run directly counter to these efforts. The Office should not be imposing greater burdens on these individuals at a time when the stakes of timely registration could hardly be higher and the benefits could hardly be clearer.

Conclusion

The Author Organizations respectfully urge the Office not to implement the proposed elimination of the Single Application or the proposed fee increases for the Standard Application and group registration of short online literary works.

Attachment A

Please share any additional comments on how the proposed fee increases would affect you.

I don't know where the \$125 for paper applications came from. I've mostly used the Standard Application for \$65 and sent in the required deposit copies (2 paperbacks). If they are now going to charge \$185 to register, that would really dissuade me and many others from registering the copyright. I don't think it should cost much to register the copyright, and that seems a lot to me.

I have submitted copyright registrations for a family member who benefits from Group Registration, and who would probably not register all works with the increased cost.

By my understanding, the US is one of the only countries in the world where despite copyright being automatic merely from creating a work, and infringement being illegal (and despite us facing the greatest mass copyright infringement in history right now), you have to pay a fee in order to have any ACTUAL protections for your own creative/intellectual work. Nearly doubling said fee, when recent instances like the Anthropic piracy case have shown that many authors were already unable to afford this protection racket, is absurd.

As in every aspect of life in these turbulent times, I and other authors and citizens of the U.S. am being "nickel-and-dimed to death." Every increase in each aspect of work and living takes its toll. While these raises won't prevent me from pursuing copyright, they do raise the expense of being an author. I put my trust in Authors Guild to keep fighting for me, my royalties, and my rights.

With the cost of living crisis and worldwide fuel increases authors, like everyone else, are making cuts where they can to reduce expenses. In an industry where few people break even and many struggle to make ends meet this increase may affect their ability to protect work that is already threatened by AI, particularly when payouts from lawsuits against the latter companies are based on copyright registration.

I'm already making less than \$1000 in profits, but spending at least \$1000 in "marketing" (keeping up the website, etc.). The hoops and obstacles most authors have to navigate for such small returns is absurd.

Small authors without official representation are struggling as it is. Making this harder will create undue pressure and cost.

That's almost double the cost per work. As authors, we don't have many protections for our work, but at least getting the copyright registered was something. It's now going to leave many authors' works vulnerable.

The proposed fee/increase would force me to pick and choose which books I could protect from being stolen and replicated by AI or not. It's baffling to me why this monetary barrier would be created NOW when we as authors are currently facing such a threat to our IP - a threat that copyrights can help contest. It would make more sense to increase the cost for traditional publishers only and keep the affordable fee for self-published authors and small presses.

Oh, yes. Let's now make copyright registration more expensive for authors who are already underpaid for the work only they do that everyone profits from. I have to wonder what will happen to a society that doesn't;t pay the people who make the very society possible. Mothers aren;t paid. (Imagine maintaining a society without people. Farmers aren't paid. (Imagine maintaining a society without food.

) Artists aren't paid. (Imagine understanding a society without its art.) Will done, US government.

I am appalled that funding cuts have driven these totally unnecessary increases.

Please don't increase the fees

However, it is a substantial increase. I was shocked when I learned they were raising it that much.

I've registered my own books because my publishers have failed to do so (which is a breach of contract, but there we are). Adding to the burden to individual authors is problematic.

As an independent author and recording artist, the elimination of the Single Application and the near doubling of the standard registration fee will directly impact how often I am able to register my work.

The Single Application currently provides an accessible entry point for individual creators managing multiple projects without institutional support. Increasing the cost from \$45 to \$85 per work, while also removing the lower-cost option entirely, creates a significant financial barrier—especially for self-published authors and independent artists who operate on limited budgets.

While I understand the need for the U.S. Copyright Office to recover operational costs, this proposal shifts that burden disproportionately onto independent creators. As a result, I will need to be more selective in what I register, which may leave some works without full legal protection.

A more balanced approach would be to retain a lower-cost option for single creators or implement incremental fee increases over time rather than eliminating the most accessible filing method altogether.

Copyright registration is not optional for enforcement—it is essential. Policies that discourage registration ultimately weaken the system they are intended to support.

I've published over 70 books and only about a third are copyrighted because the process is so complex and expensive. In addition to the copyright fee, current rules require "no backmatter" paperback versions that must be mailed in. Anything to simplify and/or decrease the cost of the process would be greatly appreciated by this indie author.

This is absolutely ridiculous.

This administration squeezed starving artists the last time they were in power, and now they're doing it again.

What is the justification for this?

I thought Doge reduced the cost of government, so why aren't prices going down?

Everyone gets fired from their good government jobs so I can pay more?

How do we get the person who put these price hikes in place fired?

I write a number of works, and it can get expensive. Protecting our work should not come down to significant cost increases.

This will not flat-out prevent registering my work, but it will significantly affect how I operate as an independent author. Fees will affect the frequency at which I can publish. I will not be able to publish in installments, as the increase in fees makes that untenable. I will be forced to consolidate publications, waiting until I have a larger body of work to register at once. This will fundamentally change how I share my work with readers and build my career.

Any work I publish, I have spent years writing. I would not allow a larger copyright fee stop me from having my work copyrighted.

For any single work the increases are easily affordable.

The US is the only country in the world that does not automatically confer copyright.

Self-publishing is a great way to get my work out there without shoveling most of the income over to a publisher who, at best, markets my book for a week at launch. Any subsequent marketing is my own effort. This is why I self-publish. I do not sell a lot of books--this is non-fiction for product creators, for service designers, and for policy-makers.

I am secure enough financially that I can afford the increase in fees. That said, I am adamantly against the increase simply because the Trump Administration has made sure this is a way to prevent authors from registering their copyright. I know I sound a bit nuts when I say that someday, we will find out that this money has gone into DT's pocket.

It would not prevent me, but it might well prevent other people. It would have prevented me at earlier periods in my life when I had less expendable income. If there are other options, perhaps they could be seriously explored before fees are raised. Let raising fees truly be a matter of last resort.

It wouldn't prevent me, but it would have a chilling effect on many industry-wide.

I used a Standard application as a self-published author as I didn't know I could use the single appl choice when registering two books in one month. That's on me.

Not sure why this is necessary. With the advent of AI much of the work that is required can be performed by AI for a fraction of the cost.

It's worth the money, although it's not great to have to pay more.

With so many fraudulent organizations trying to scam and steal books, an author must copyright their personal property. We have no choice. I'd be very disappointed if the copyright office almost doubled their prices to copyright books.

Why not just increase the single registration from \$45 to \$55 or even \$60. That is more doable and keeps the simplified form by which most books are registered.

Authors have a difficult time in today's world. All costs are escalating and royalties are declining. If I hadn't registered my copyrights in the past, the books I published which are now part of the Anthropic settlement would not have been eligible for part of that settlement. Please support the ability of authors to register copyrights by NOT increasing those fees.

Anything that costs me more money has an affect. I'm not aware of an explanation from the Copyright Office as to why this is necessary.

\$85 is a lot of money to register a copyright, and this could negatively affect independent authors who publish 2 or more books a year, or whose publishers leave copyright registration up to the author, which is a lot of them. Most authors don't have oodles of disposable income, especially in this economy and the current market.

It's pretty simple to register for a single work, but I hear that the process is longer and more expensive for the standard application. I fear I will need to hire one of those firms that files for writers, which adds to the expense. As I am not a full-time writer, I cannot devote my limited writing hours to tasks like this, including the time it takes to get up to speed.

Barrier to Entry. For many creators including authors, the increased fees and elimination of single application may be a barrier to entry - effectively denying their constitution-based right to protection of copyrights. This is especially true in light of the requirement that suits can be brought only after a registration has issued and within 3 months for stat damages. Delay these increases for as long as possible.

If this were to be effective at all it would Discount members who are paying affiliates and members of The Guild. Why should one pay to be registered for a Copyright through the guild if it is less expensive to do it solo online as an author or pseudonym? How does this benefit an author please? Thanks. Have a good day.

A fee increase is not justified, given the current incredibly slow response time for copyright application.

I am not a high-earning author but for the most part my publishers have registered my copyright for me. For future titles that I register on my own, this would be a substantial increase considering my income.

Being candid, on the independent publishing side of things, this sucks as it adds to the nickel and diming pressure felt by self-publishing authors such as myself. Can I afford that increase? Realistically yes. Will it deter me from registration? No, but that's because the pros of registration outweigh the cons and the need to protect my works. My broader opinion is we just saw independent authors go into an uproar on social over a 1 time \$20 registration and \$12/yr fee on Draft 2 Digital for less successful author accounts. That general reaction indicates a fee increase this large will deter a lot of self-pub authors from registration, and that's a negative thing for the less fortunate. I'm not a fan of seeing that in our industry.

The increase and added amount of work seems totally unnecessary! It's tough enough in this environment with a huge number of writers barely subsisting.

I's definitely a disincentive.

Eliminating the single application is a bad idea. It puts authors in a difficult position. Fees for a standard application are too high. We need the single application to remain as it is. It is a matter of fairness and expense. But if the single application is eliminated, something has to be done about the proposed fees for a single book (print and electronic) by a single author who solely owns the copyright. This whole thing is backwards and arguably an abuse for authors. A single work by a single author should not be on a standard application, let alone with such a higher fee. Congress should not permit this.

This raise in cost it will eat into my finances, which are already tight. Every dollar counts.

I have mixed feelings about this. On the one hand, we've watched drastic budget cuts in many governmental departments over the last two years. And eliminating paperwork (re: the larger increase on paper applications) makes sense in a digital world.

But the timing feels suspect for two reasons: 1) The recent disaster of the Anthropic case, where authors whose publishers didn't file copyrights missed out on getting reimbursed for their stolen works. 2) The proliferation of AI-generated content based on or outright plagiarizing/copying original works that is flooding the market has become a hot topic among authors, creators, and publishing houses.

Both events reinforce the importance of getting your copyright in place, which makes increasing the rates at this time feel predatory (and slimy).

Aside from the distasteful timing, authors are struggling right now in general, and this is one more thing to discourage them from pursuing their art.

The online process for filing a copyright is horrible (ie not straightforward and confusing). Now it will be expensive and horrible.

I don't want to see the fees increased, but if they raise the fees, what other choice do we have to protect ourselves?

I don't think it would prevent me from registering, but I do believe it would deter a significant number of authors. If they do increase it, I would expect the turnaround time to be faster. I believe my application took six months to process.

Thank you.

They would make me less inclined to register for copyright.

Although the increase is substantial it is also an imperative component of protection & promotion

The group registration fee increase is fairly high and could deter registration by regular bloggers. Also, the 3-month rule seems to make it such that most bloggers could not register anywhere close to 50 articles in one application—so they would not be saving much money or time by filing a group application for two or three articles.

Not happy about it, but I wouldn't skip copyrighting my work!

I think the electronic fee is doable but the paper application increase sounds exorbitant and anyone who needs to file a paper application may not be able to even afford a computer! I was never even aware there was a single as opposed to standard application for individual works.

Increasing copyright fees would put a hardship on authors that put so much time and money into their books. From the works themselves, to cover design, editing, and formatting. This is without immediate return. The ROI would be even higher with the copyright increase and may deter people from applying in favor of finding other ways to prove their works are original.

I always register electronically.

This proposed cost is outrageous. Find the funds you need elsewhere and stop penalizing independent authors.

This fees are already high in comparison with copyright registration in other countries. I think it will need a big campaign and organizing coalitions to fight this increase.

The effect of these increases will likely be reduced registrations, thus offsetting the projected revenue gains. The objective of the Copyright Office should be to make registering for copyright protection easier, not more difficult. In this modern age, there is no reason copyright protection should be getting more expensive.

This is a legal not a consumer issue. Copyright laws help protect US property and knowledge from foreign theft. The office should not put that burden on authors when it allows AI to steal already copyrighted material for nothing. Get congress to fund the office properly!

Although I sympathize with the Officer needing to cover expenses the government will not support, this is also a quickly deteriorating economic environment where job security is dwindling. It is times like these which disincentivizes creators from protecting their work. Times like these expel authors from the industry and often those authors are from marginalized communities whose voice is already muted. We need to rebuild our framework to support those muted voices when times get harder for us all.

It is already so hard to enforce a copyright, would this come with strengthened protections? Enforcement action to deter the flagrant abuse of copyright protections?

I would still copyright the books that I write, because it is so important. And I understand that costs rise.

It would make it more difficult to protect my work in a world where theft is easy and AI feels like they have the right to our IP for free. This would impact so many authors who deserve to have legal protections for their work and make us all more vulnerable in this space. Please don't make this more difficult for artists who are already struggling in a difficult economy.

Send one less ship to the strait of Hormuz, and that should cover the needed increases. Or stop advertising government activities or sell those luxury planes this administration seems to need for the lowliest of cabinet members. Oh, lifetime insurance and pensions for congressional members who serve one term and are out can go, too.

More realistically, I need to know more why these are necessary and what they'll be used for. A slight raise seems okay, but doubling seems like someone is both trying to deter author protections and make some money on the backs of those who can least afford to share.

I didn't even know the single application option existed! I've been doing the standard application this whole time. :(The \$65 was already hard as Canadian; \$85 will be worse. But it's pretty clear I don't get much protection without it.

I am an indie author and suffer with EXTREMELY variable income. Whether I can afford to pay \$20 more to obtain a copyright will depend on my sales at the time. And I'm unhappy with such a bold increase in price when there is no obvious improvement in the copyright process to justify such an enormous increase.

I am one of thousands who produce books every few years due to the amount of research needed for my historical subjects. In my instance, that research is on my own time and dime. Your proposal is to almost double my expenditure on an extremely necessary portion of the process as an author - to protect my hours of work and final product. I am not a large company that can afford such a steep increase, yet my work is of value. Necessary increases along with budget cuts are our reality of late. However, placing the burden on the authors who publish fewer works seems unbalanced. Please find a more equitable approach. Thank you.

This seems to have the most effect on self-published authors, a growing category. I suspect these are the least likely to be able to afford this. Thanks for paying attention to this, AG.

In a world of electronic communication, our personal writings and literary works are being used to fuel AI and social media content. They can be transmitted around the world in seconds. In order to protect our intellectual property, we need to be able to file for copyright protection. Doing so, affords us a set of property rights that can be enforced. To increase fees for matters that are simply uploaded and cataloged seems extreme. I recognize we are living in a world of inflation, but there is a penal component to this increase. They want to almost double the costs in a world where salaries for everyday Americans have been stagnant. \$10 fee increase, which would be nominally more incremental, perhaps. Almost double, seems like a deterrent. Now, I will have to draw down from my savings to cover an expense that may not have been an issue had the government not afforded tax cuts to wealthy citizens. Thank you for asking.

I think I would register my work no matter what the cost but it seems a punishing increase, particularly for any author who self-publishes.

I would hope common sense would prevail and the fee would not be raised.

What is the rationale for this increase? And for requiring authors to use the more expensive ("Standard") path? Where would this money go? Would it support other authors? Would it support authors who have little or no resources? Without cogent responses to these questions, the increase seems unfounded.

I write a dozen short Substack's a year and take lots of photographs which I include in the Substack. While I always write Copyright (c) Jo Freeman 20__ in them, I don't register them due to the cost. I don't get paid for writing and distributing these Works, and I don't want to pay to distribute them. Photos on my webpage taken decades ago are already ripped off, as are some of the pieces I wrote 50 years ago. None of these are registered. A University press put one of my books out of print in 2021 but continues to sell reprint rights. It's too expensive to sue them. In short, copyright registration doesn't protect me.

The fee increase seems way too high since most authors don't have multiple works in a 3 month period

It's unfortunate that the copyright office funding doesn't adequately cover the work done there. Per usual with this administration, the individual foots the bill for the systematic dismantling of our institutions. The increase won't prevent me from applying, however, I worry if this isn't setting a precedent for future annual increases.

The prices should remain the same in my opinion.

I work through a small, independent press. This would severely limit the press's ability to quickly register copyright, and accordingly because of price, increase the production costs and retail price of my books. That would result in fewer sales in an environment that already favors mega-publishers and monopolistic conglomerates, pushing aside small and independent presses (and authors' voices) even further.

I think the \$65 to \$85 is fine if they are challenged financially like most places, including the USPS.

Pay them more

I try to bulk my registration so I can register 2 or 3 books at a time (they're not short works though, I choose the "group of unpublished works" and it costs \$85 I believe).

But I would never pay \$130 for several or \$85 per book! that's crazy. In France, where I live and also register (just to make sure) it's \$30 for ten years and I can do like 15 works at a time (maybe more but I never tried), so it seems really high for me for something like that.

The proposed increases would make me think more about registering. I might wait or have to budget it more. For example, I would likely wait to submit a group of short stories. The potential problem is that I will never end up filing.

Nearly doubling the cost for writer's to make sure their work is protected when AI has been caught stealing the many works of authors is UNACCEPTABLE. Writers need help. Keeping costs low helps writers and protects the creative products of authors. Please ensure writers continue to receive a fair fee of \$45 to register their work. The U.S. Copyright office must provide these vital services at current reasonable rates to ensure fairness and access to all.

I don't understand what the basis is for increasing these fees. It's not as if the Copyright Office has increased costs!

I'm far along enough in my career that I can afford the new fees. But I worry about new writers who cannot.

Since copyright registration is frequently required to file for damages for copyright infringement, making it more costly and difficult for authors to file will lead to a decline in the value of copyright protection.

Registering a copyright for multiple short works could become cost-prohibitive for authors who publish several smaller works throughout the year to earn supplemental income.

You can collect all the comments you want on this. Many government proposals have received a majority of negative feedback and they've done it all anyway. To be clear, I am opposed to the increases.

Using the justification that the office never paid for itself is ridiculous. If any government service that we paid for paid for itself, then why do we pay taxes?

No one likes to pay more for a service. But if the increase could pay to speed up the processing time, that would be worthwhile.

Ironically, it's a tax deductible expense. So depending upon the tax bracket of the author, the federal government will net less than \$20. And by registering my copyright, I'm supporting (giving part of the money to) the Copyright Office rather than the general federal budget...so in a warped way, I'm fine with the increase. I've visited the Library of Congress and the Copyright Office, and support their work.

An underfunded US Copyright Office - and do we even have an official head, yet? I am still waiting for the registration for my most recent book; applied for that before the end of 2025. It is taking way longer than my other novels in the past. Trump and his goons have destroyed everything, large and small.

The Republican Party based on objectively verifiable facts has created a neo-medieval society in which everything that the non-uber-rich Americans touch has gone up in price. This increase should come as no surprise

This comes at a time when the price of EVERYTHING is going up. This means paying more when I have less. Obviously, groceries and rent will take precedence.

The \$85 seems a lot to register a copyright for an electronic book and \$185 for a paperback is downright onerous. Most authors do not even break even on a book but as a creative work, our work deserves the legal protections that copyright registration affords. However, with the Anthropic agreement, I was glad that I had registered all my copyrights, though just three of my ten books were pirated for training AI. So, I probably would pay the increased fee.

Most authors make very little money each year. This could have huge impacts on whether or not people protect their intellectual property.

What do they think working authors are doing for a living? We're writers! There were already people who couldn't afford copyrights as it was.

I can afford the increase, but unless the office becomes more efficient, it's hard to justify this. An increase in any thing anywhere monetarily would affect me.

While I would continue to copyright my books, this 45%+ increase in fees will eventually come into play on whether or not I continue to move forward with new works. While I understand a modest increase, nearly doubling the fees feels as if existing authors are being punished for making human crafted work. Increased in publishing fees such as copyright fees, formatting fees, editing fees, etc. will eventually kill out independent authors.

Writers are having a terrible time of it at the moment. Opportunities and income are dwindling. AI is already terrorizing copyright. Why would the U.S. Copyright Office feel that now, of all times, is the right time to make it more difficult to obtain copyright protection?

In the future, fees and structure can be revisited. For now, however, authors and creatives need all the help they can get.

This proposal is reckless.

I'm doing some self-published books in the next couple of years. I'm not happy about increases in fees.

As an aging worker in the writing-editing-publishing industry, I have seen my income steadily fall over the past 8 years. Debts and expenses, on the other hand, are increasing. Thus, if copyright fees significantly increase, I shall have to cease obtaining copyrights for my books. It's already a cost many authors cannot afford, increasing it is only an attempt to reduce future litigation opportunities.

I remain an active author while prices are rising. I never thought of the increase as a potential problem. Now I'm concerned.

Any increase in cost to creatives to secure copyrights would more often than not, place an undue and unnecessary burden on writers and artists, and should be reconsidered.

I don't know whether my publishers filed a standard application. Whatever publishers usually do, I guess. I've never made an application myself.

First, this price increase is not warranted. The Copyright Office's quality of service has declined substantially - I'm still waiting since early autumn 2025 for copyrights to be registered (this was before any government shutdowns). So charge us more for a poor level of service?

Second, it came to my notice that they are allowing authors' private information (namely postal addresses) to be publicly available. If you click on a link for a book, it will show up. If authors have to file their own copyrights because the work is independently published, their publisher neglected to register copyright, or their works were published in a country where there is no formal copyright registration, the address on record will show up - and this will usually be the authors' home address. This is a serious breach of privacy, not to mention a security risk. If an author wants to change the address (and they must have a "verifiable" address to change it to), the copyright office is charging \$130 per title. This is highway robbery.

If the copyright office wants to increase fees, then it should cease allowing the display of private information for public figures such as authors. Years ago this was not the case - I know this as I have old registrations that do not show any address. Apparently, in the last few years, they believe it is perfectly acceptable to let anyone, including bad actors, to find out where we live. I urge the Guild to take this matter up with the copyright office. There is no legitimate reason for our addresses to be made public!

I really hesitated on the last question. I am in my 80s, so copyright protection doesn't have the same importance to me as to younger authors. My books are not mainstream, and I can't imagine a circumstance where I would actively try to enforce a copyright -- age, time and money are all limited.

This change punishes small, indie authors who are already struggling thanks to the onslaught of AI. Being able to copyright our work is one of the few ways we can protect ourselves from theft and differentiate ourselves from AI slop. This would be prohibitively expensive for authors who often never make \$100 in sales.

This proposed increase is significant so I would strongly consider whether the copyright would be worthwhile.

There is so much growing overhead for authors now with publishing now from the cost of platforms or the ridiculously high cut middlemen take to the costs of tracking copyright infringement and so on. This kind of thing is breaking me and fee costs are a big part of it. Every prize and competition has overhead to enter and so on. Authors and artists cannot handle this. I don't even belong to all the guilds I could and would like to be because I can't afford the annual dues and they cost about as much as what is being proposed for copyright registration. I view this change as antagonistic to creative labor and from the same regime that is buddied up with anti-labor issues in big tech and media acquisitions are bleeding us dry and reducing the power of unions through these wealth transfers because we aren't able to pay into unions.

The cost to register my copyright for my books is already the most expensive part of self publishing for me. Add in the increased costs for printing, shipping, etc and the lower royalties due to the market being inundated with AI slop, and it's already not feasible to register copyright every time. An extra \$20+ per book is going to make it worse.

Maybe if they updated the portal beyond the 2006 version they're using, it would be worth an increase but as it stands, we're already paying a ridiculous amount for technology that anyone born this century wouldn't know the first thing about navigating.

I'm not objecting to the increase; kudos to the Copyright Office and the staff who work in this department.

I would understand a slight increase, but increasing by almost double is ridiculous.

It is already almost impossible to ENFORCE copyright registrations as a single, independent creator of intellectual property. I have primarily used the group registration process recently. Yes these increases would certainly mean that I would not be registering my work. I've felt that in a pinch it could be useful. But yeah, the proposed fees would take it off the table completely for me.

I would still copyright my work, but it may reduce how many works I write.

This would massively and negatively impact independent authors. We pay for our own copyright fees. Most independent authors do not make a lot of money off of their works. This is wrong. It is stealing from the poorest artists when you could be raising other fees. Are you raising fees on copyright for film? Television? Music? You would make a whole lot more money if you were to raise fees on those. This mostly hurts the dissemination of artistic expression and free thought. Do not do this.

Authors today have enough problems with individuals and others attempting to cheat them out of what is rightfully theirs. The government should focus on these very real problems instead of trying to nickel and dime the authors.

\$85 per work is a lot when works should be automatically protected by copyright when they are created. And it's not clear how much it actually matters when AI companies aren't being held accountable for their massive copyright infringement.

In my contracts, my publisher is responsible for filing the copyright registration. I'm not confident this will continue to be the case with small indie publishers and any increase in fees will give them another reason to push the cost onto the authors and illustrators.

Personally, knowing what I know now, I would just handle it regardless of the cost but I don't think that's true of most children's book authors or author-illustrators.

I'm not happy about any increase but everything else has gone up so why not copyright fees?

Given the importance that Copyright has always carried, plus the even greater weight it now carries on account of AI, the increase in the fee seems like a small price versus not having such protections in place.

The rise in price is uncomfortable, but the protection is important.

As a very small indie author, \$45 for each copyright is already a chunk of my budget. \$65 would be a challenge, and \$85 is a true obstacle. With that said, I'm currently involved in the Anthropic settlement, so I know the copyrights are an important part of publishing and protecting my work.

With a very small budget, which isn't even including ads and promo, \$85 would be a major chunk out of what I have available to spend. Making back the \$85 per book would be difficult. While I wouldn't want to skip copyrights, there would realistically be points in time when I wouldn't be able to afford it and would have to go without.

raising taxes on the wealthy would help

I'm not happy having to pay more, but I want to make sure my work is copyrighted after what has happened with Anthropic.

If filing copyright was guaranteed protection, had a modern website, easy communication and follow-up, clear instructions, a quick turnaround, and was generally more user-friendly, then sure, a price increase would be fine. But to continue the same work on the same site, with the same outdated everything, for almost double the price, is insulting to everyone.

I imagine that high-revenue authors will complain about the price increase (as most humans would), but still file as part of their publishing process. But small and mid-list authors who may not even make that much money in royalties? Not a chance.

I think this proposed increase is a terrible idea.

Although I am not happy with the price hike, it wouldn't affect me too much since I have another source of income coming in. However, I empathize with those authors who live on a fixed income and will most definitely be affected. What is the difference between a single and standard application, anyway? I think that's a slap in the face to hard working creatives who want to protect their work.

There appears to be no choice - an author must have a copyright. It would go far to soften the blow if the services that the Copyright Office provides, like sending a certificate of registration, would move along less sluggishly.

I am a small press. Cannot afford such an increase. I switched awhile ago and put this responsibility on my authors.

This is a significant cost increase to file as a small indie author. I would likely budget this in like I do things like cover and editing, but it's not inconsiderable and I might not be as diligent about doing so every title.

I won't like paying more and I don't make a lot of money so this is a significant fee, but the protections are important to me especially in light of the Anthropic decision.

I believe it's time for a conglomerate of non-governmental publishing and author organizations to start offering their own version of copyright that can stand up in court if a work is legally contested.

Unlikely but it would be a hardship

It would impact copyrighting backlist titles and potentially titles going forward. This is prohibitive to someone who has many books or is prolific.

I think we should cut the multi-billion dollar budget for military hardware and bombs for Iran, not economize on the backs of new books and ideas. But I will still publish my forthcoming novel and still copyright it.

I would not prevent me from copyriting my work because our work is vulnerable to AI, plagiarism, piracy, etc..Just consider that authors, provide work and revenue to many other people: the ISBN, the publisher, the printer, the distributors, etc., authors are the ones that earn the less. I would ask to please reconsider the increase in copywriting our work, and if it is absolutely necessary, to make a doable increase of \$10 or \$15 the most, but not to double the copyright amount..

I'm not sure how much real protection registration provides at this point, and I don't make enough from my writing to justify the expense.

That's a big jump in fees for me, an indie author.

Considering how long it takes to receive the letter after registration (I registered my last book in Novemeber and I still haven't received anything), I find the current price already quite outrageous, let alone any increases

This is penalizing art. Writers typically don't make a ton of money writing (except for the top echelon of book sales types) so this is incredibly discouraging, and commoditizes writing to make it a consumerist endeavor. Capitalism should stop, full stop, way ahead of the arts. If this has to be done, maybe go after bestselling authors- not all authors. Tax accordingly.

The way it's explained here, the cost would go up, but limit my defense of my rights as an author. I need to understand this better to determine if I would be okay with a cost increase. If the increase in cost lessens an author's ability to defend their copyright, then I would be against the increase.

I write novels and music that come out infrequently so I'm not greatly affected by the change.

However, anyone working in short form self publishing would be greatly impacted by this. Something else we have to thank you know who for....the fourth grade reader.

We already have companies ignoring copyright, and the recent Anthropic settlement covers those ONLY who had a formal copyright filed. We're stuck with expensive protection that seems to be failing us everyday. Keep the costs reasonable - we're filing electronically. Doubling the price makes no sense.

Nearly doubling copyright fees will make it even harder to indie publish books. I will likely write less books for indie publication to factor in this increase in charges as well as many other platform fee increases from other parts of the industry.

This move deters lesser-known authors from copyrighting their books, leaving their works unprotected simply because it gets too expensive. In an age of AI where unscrupulous people can spit out low-quality premade books just to make a quick buck, while true authors toil over their works and may even spend years to perfect them, this is letting down American authors.

Many of us are proud of our craft, and it is bad enough to see royalties dwindling due to costs and lost book sales. I find this move to eliminate the Single Applications to be devastating. True authors don't create books overnight, nor do most make much money from their books, so increasing prices to even double depending on registration type is only going to make it bad for everyone.

The USA was built on a principle of free speech. Why are authors' voices being muted by limiting our ability to afford to create?

Copyright protection is fundamental in this age of AI so, while it is annoying to see the price doubling, it's a necessary evil. At a time when the price of printing books is going up, the copyright piece is only a small piece to worry about and, as long as it's under \$100/book, I'm not too worried about it.

I do all electronic applications. While it wouldn't prevent me from registering copyrights, I might publish less as a result. Or even delay publications.

My books have only been published by traditional publishers who automatically handle the copyrights.

I am both traditionally and independently published. My traditional publishers paid application fees but I pay for all costs for my self published works. A fee of \$185 per paper book (my best copies) means I have to sell about 20 extra copies to pay for the additional \$140. I am lucky to sell 300 copies and break even on my expenses. This is a hardship for independent authors and hits the least successful the hardest. Perhaps you need a sliding scale, as many authors organizations do.

It wouldn't deter me, but since electronic filing doesn't have a direct cost, I think this is a terrible idea. This almost certainly will discourage some people from filing. Presuming the "cost to file" is the maintenance/upgrade costs per year divided by the number of filings per year, this could raise the relative cost per filing beyond the new rate because they're dividing their costs by a fewer number of filers. The revenue generated by the new rate might still be below their "break-even" point. The better option is to leave it alone and/or make it EASIER for authors to register copyrights. Not sure this is an area where the government needs to break even or make a profit anyway.

We've all seen what can happen when copyrights aren't filed and an author's rights are violated. The Anthropic case is a clear example. Have a filed copyright and it might still get violated, but you have recourse. Without it you're out of luck. While I get that the office is short staffed due to budget cuts, I've been waiting for two copyright registrations for almost five months and still have nothing. I still think what amounts to a 90% increase in cost is outrageous.

Raising the fees creates a huge financial hardship for most authors. It deters authors from the ability to file for a copyright, which then hurts them if they need to defend that right or show proof of copyright.

Obtaining a copyright for my books is the only way for me to create a legal link between me and the pseudonym under which I write. This legal link is necessary to prove that I am the rights holder in disputes with entities such as Amazon So, realistically, no, I won't stop filing copyright applications for my books even with the increase in fees. However, the jump from \$45 to \$85 for the Single Application is outrageous as it inordinately affects indie authors like myself and nearly doubles the cost while the Standard Application cost rises by half that. (\$40 for the Single, \$20 for the Standard). If the cost is going to increase, it should affect all authors equally and not place an unfairly steep cost on indie authors.

They now charge \$65.

While this increase may not necessarily stop me from registering a copyright, it would mean a financial hit.

The change would make me wince but not stop me from registering. The new fees look to be about 2 to 3 times the costs during the 1970s when I started registering copyrights, whereas cars and housing in my part of the world are 8 to 15 times as costly.

It seems an increase is in order but I believe half of what they're proposing would be more reasonable.

As one of the leaders of a small nonprofit cooperative (volunteer) press, we have not been copyrighting our books; however, with our 2026 press slate we were going to begin a formal registration process -- why? AI and the recent spate of lawsuits, which made it possible for only author/publishers with registered copyrights to participate in the lawsuit -- and with the overall desire in this complicated world for more protection on our works. These dramatic increases make it very difficult for us to do so. The percent increase seems outrageous and unfair, especially to small presses, especially for a small, nonprofit literary press.

Thank you for this survey. Please keep us posted. Thank you for advocating on behalf of author, and in this case, an author helping to run a small nonprofit press.

I missed out on copyright settlements because I found out—10 years after the fact—that Simon & Schuster failed to properly register a copyright because they were too cheap.

I can understand the reason for the increased fees—I'm sure that the amount of people applying for copyrights has skyrocketed—but not for the increased application bureaucracy. Reading about the proposed changes, I feel as though it is meant to discourage authors from registering copyrights and make their work more vulnerable to infringement by AI and other means.

If we authors use the Copyright Office to copyright our work, they should apply more stringent rules about protecting us. The use of AI or other applications that allow things like "Read This Book" to steal from or interpret an author's work should be strictly enforced. This applies to Amazon, Fable, Anthropic, and all others. An author's copyrighted work should be enforced when others use their work without their express written permission. Otherwise, registering a copyright is WORTHLESS.

I would not affect me.

I may never make any money off this as yet unpublished novel, but I'm glad that it's protected.

Going from \$45 to \$85 is quite the price increase. Currently I am waiting on a copyright I filed in January (it is now mid-April). Additionally, I have had one rejected because I left the first chapter from another book at the end, and instead of just having me resubmit the new file, it made me pay an additional \$45. Also, once you upload the file there is no way to delete it even if you are in the same session. I think the functionality of the application should also be improved if they are increasing the cost so substantially.

Seems like it's paving the way for people to register AI created books cheaply. Horrible idea. Given the AI implications and pirating that regularly occurs, it's getting harder and harder for authors to make a living. Increasing the fees puts us at risk for not being able to protect our work.

Obviously, it would make filing more expensive. However, not so much that I wouldn't register.

Not me, but generally. Book copyrighting is already not fully understood by many authors, as demonstrated in the Anthropic settlement in which many authors thought they were copyrighted but weren't, or though publishers had copyrighted but hadn't (which happened to me some years ago). Increased fees will probably lead to increase of this casual non-use of official copyright, largely based on misunderstanding. If the copyright office wants to double costs, it should accompany that with with more assertive, informative and efficient service.

Honestly, it feels like authors are being attacked on all sides these days: Using our works without compensation to train AI systems; Reducing advances; Broadening and securing more rights to our works; Delaying royalty payments; etc.

They move forward aggressively taking giant steps while we cautiously take baby steps to defend ourselves. I'm so thankful to the AG for advocating on our behalf in this David vs Goliath world! You're making a difference in our lives.

As an author, I've been publishing traditionally with established New York houses for nearly 60 years, so the costs so far have been all borne by them. But in my elder years, in addition to continuing that work I've been planning a series of short (pamphlet-sized) works on topics that I'd issue seriatim under my own imprint and on which I would have considered applying for copyright, but I'm not so sure I'd do so at the proposed rate increase.

My previous book was traditionally published by a bricks-and-mortar publisher who paid for copyright. But as an individual, I would bear the cost, should I self-publish another work. I think the single application should be kept at \$45, a rate more reachable for individual artists. The standard application should be raised to \$85 as a cost of doing business for a commercial concern. Congress should protect funding for arts efforts here in the US.

I'm suspicious about where the additional fees are going, since Trump monetizes everything to line his own pockets.

Frankly, it's annoying to have to pay for a proof of copyright to begin with and then to raise the fee is insane. I'd simply forgo the formal registration if they do that.

Impose a financial burden.

Fees for independent publishers and self-published authors have been increasing across the board, with the same results or worse in ROI. It's unfair to impose increased fees for small artists in an economic climate that constantly burdens those who already have a financial disadvantage.

I myself have primarily had my publisher register copyrights, but I have done several of my own. The fee increase is excessive and not at all appropriate for individuals.

Unfortunate, but not determinative.

This fee increase would prevent me from filing a copyright registration for minor works.

Frankly I think the \$45 is high for authors. It's different for publishers, but when authors have to take this cost, it cuts into our already thin if not non-existent profits. For the vast majority of authors, writing and publishing work is a dream pursued while working for someone else at a different job. But if they are going to publish their work, authors want to be protected from theft - and should be protected from theft. When they're not, when creating becomes burdensome, new creations and innovations, new books, will be the outcome. This proposed fee increase will only benefit AI companies that want to continue to train their products on human books without having to pay for it. And this increase will make writers think twice about publishing their fiction, non-fiction, ideas, thoughts, etc., which will only benefit the people who want to stifle those thoughts and ideas.

It would be a terrible idea for the Copyright Office to eliminate the Single Application. That would mean that Copyright would cost twice as much for electronic applications and more than four times as much for paper applications. The ability to file for copyright for only \$45 makes it possible for poorer authors like me to protect several ideas at once. Doubling and quadrupling those fees would remove my ability to protect more than one idea at a time.

Before AI started stealing works, I didn't give much thought to registering the copyright (and assumed my publisher had done so; they had not). Now it's more important than ever to have legal control of my creative works.

It is a lousy time to raise rates on authors.

I will always register my own copyrights. I also function as a project management for dozens of clients a year and some may balk at this price; but I will encourage most of them to file as well. U.S. copyright protection is stronger than in the United Kingdom and Canada, where they barely have processes to register.

The U.S. Copyright Office provides an extraordinary service. The website is old school and it works!! Any time I have needed assistance - either by email or by phone - I've been extremely happy with the service. Agents are respectful, patient and profoundly knowledgeable. With all the changes in Washington from 2025 to 2026, the lag time between filing and final receipt of the official document confirming copyright took a while. But it arrived!

I hope you don't change anything other than your price, which I am happy to pay.

With the economy as it is, I currently find the \$65 fee limiting. An increase would definitely be a hardship for me as things are at the moment.

I see no reason for an increase without detailed explanations as to why this is necessary. Especially when many countries allow this type of copyright for free.

You are punishing authors who take their time to produce quality material. A nearly 100% increase is not sustainable in a market where profit is already abysmal. If you want AI slop to take over, this will surely be a stepping stone in that direction.

I began publishing in 2020 and neglected to fill out the copyright paperwork because the \$45 fee was cumbersome. After Anthropic, it became clear to me that in the world of AI, proof of copyright is more essential than ever to safeguard my work from exploitation by bad actors in the tech industry. As an indie author who publishes multiple works per year, raising the fee to \$85 increases the costs of doing business in a way that really impacts my margin. I'd have to sell an extra 20 or so ebooks (at \$2.99) in order to cover those costs, and sometimes I don't even sell 20 ebooks of any single title in a year.

It seems everything is going up in price except my pay. These are not insignificant fee increases, and I'm not sure I can continue to write. I'm an independent author because my traditional publisher decided to breach her contract and stop paying her bestselling authors, of which I was one. But continuing to be an indie author lays all the debt upon me, and I'm not sure how much more I can handle.

Prices are going up for everything. The question for me is less about changing from single to standard (since we can still register a "single" work under the standard application) and more about the cost. If I were registering short online literary works (which I don't do much), this would be a bigger problem. For a novel that I write (every year and a half), this isn't going to dent my budget that much.

All of my publishers have paid these fees on my behalf as part of their contract with me. However, I have also published over 30 books.

Everything should be left at present fee as so many of us have been downsized in our day jobs, which we need to support ourselves--pay rent, buy food, etc. Mature authors have an uphill battle obtaining an agent/publisher. Obtaining both should be a reward, not a punishment with higher fees, especially with those authors self-publishing, which is becoming more than the norm than exception. Authors work long hours and many do massive amounts of research. Then, there's the cost for a developmental editor, and now many agents are charging to speak to authors. Few authors can sustain themselves on royalties, therefore the powers that be in the Copyright Office should be made aware of these issues and give authors a much needed break.

A few publishers are changing the copyright language in their contracts specifying the author will register the copyright, rather than the publisher fulfilling that responsibility. Considering how little authors tend to make with each book published, paying \$85 versus \$45 creates a hardship on authors. And authors are most likely to register copyrights one title at a time. If the fees haven't been covering the cost of registration, I think the increase is warranted.

Even in its current state, it's hard to justify the cost of single application for a copy right because as we've seen from the recent ai cases, it doesn't even protect authors. And then to raise the rates, it further denigrates the copyright registration and makes it feel pointless.

Just adding more cost and more friction is bound to discourage the most vulnerable authors. I see it less as a reasonable means of covering costs than just another of this administration's ill intentioned attacks on creators. Just more bad faith.

Copyright office is slow and not easy to work with as is. Hate to see costs go up.

Not only are those fees ridiculous now that there are more indie authors these days, but the copyright website is incomprehensible these days to use.

I am not planning to write any more books, but if I do, I don't think the price rise would make a difference.

I am not planning to write any more books, but if I do, I don't think the price rise would make a difference.

Most novelists, like me, don't get rich writing novels. So such increases cut into a writer's earnings.

One hopes to sign with a publisher who will do this, but what's the possibility of that? For a writer without a big contract or advance, \$85 is a lot of money! I'd like to know the basis for this great a raise in price. If it's not arbitrary, Why?

I may not represent the majority of those applying for copyrights. I write science fiction that is futurist hypothesis content, and has been used successfully in "prior art" reference for winning new patents on internet AI communications technology. For me, while my royalties have been almost nothing, the benefit of copyright registration is a business administration concern related to patents on new proof of concept content, for new technology. So paying \$20 more is a minor concern.

eliminate paper applications, to to all electronic applications, everyone has access to the internet through their local library, come into the 21st century - reduce the workload and keep the fees reasonable - use AI to assist in processing the applications and keep the fees reasonable for individual authors such as myself I couldn't afford higher fees and would probably forgo the copyright registration and just use the service mark

I am an indie author so all of this falls on me and not another publisher. I need to protect my works, especially after the Anthropic case, so I feel like I don't have a choice. Taking away the single application doesn't make sense. I can understand the need to raise the cost some, but to practically double it is too much.

The proposed fee is outrageous. When I started publishing in 2013 it was \$35 to register a copyright. As far as I know, I've always done the "Standard Application" because I don't want my name publicly on the website and I put my business LLC as the owner.

this increase would not affect my decision to copyright as I feel it is a necessary business expense. However, as a small business (indie publisher) it will be more difficult to pay for and I will likely have to cut costs elsewhere. It is difficult that costs for everything are rising (printing, copyright, editing, design + mailing) yet book prices need to remain stable because people can't afford them. So essentially I'm making the same but it's costing more to put out a quality + copyrighted product.

I am an independent author and the proposed fee increases would make me less financially able to register my copyrights. As it is with pirates stealing my work and AI Large Language Models being trained on those pirated works I often wonder if a copyright is worth it. The 45 dollar fee is comfortable for me. An increase would mean I would probably not register my works.

I'm a self-publishing author. Expenses are already high with me covering everything on my own. Since copyright is already mine, I only register for better legal protection should the need arise to protect my work. I respect fees to cover administrative costs, but if processing my application takes less than 30 minutes (which I'm confident it does), then \$45 is definitely sufficient payment.

I'd far rather my taxes underwrite copyright registration than defense spending!

The proposed fee increases would prevent me from being able to protect my creative works with copyright registration. I always use the single application for my articles, books, ebooks, and artwork. Due to the amount of copyright infringement these days, skipping registration is not an option, but since I wouldn't be able to afford higher copyright fees, I would likely have to reconsider continuing to publish my work altogether.

I oppose the fee increase

I very much appreciated the discount for registering a single work for the streamlined fee, although I don't think the raise in price will affect my ability to register such works in the future. Raising the short online works fee from \$65 to \$130 seems a burdensome enough increase that I'm not sure I would bother to register such works at that fee.

Would prefer to keep the single application fee, and lower it if possible, as I only register one book at a time and it would save me money. I only write and register one book at a time.

For most authors and small, independent publishers, including myself and my few authors, the additional fees make it even harder to earn any money at all for all the work that writing, editing, producing and then marketing a book takes. Please at the very least, keep the Single Application!

It is becoming increasingly more expensive to publish books and increasingly more difficult to sell them. Most self published authors don't even break even on their costs. This increase in copyright registration fees hurts authors even more. It's a shame because with AI being a threat to authors we need all the protections we can get for our work and copyright registration seems extra important in these times.

\$65 is already a high fee. I want to also register all my older works (both solo and co-written), but it's already been hard to do with the volume of older works I have and the fees associated. This would make it prohibitively more expensive. I can't afford to register all 30+ backlist titles right now, especially not with the requirement to mail two copies of the book to the library of congress (=cost of the books + price of shipping).

The increase would probably not stop me from registering new works, but it will mean that registering old works becomes impossible unless/until I become much, much more successful than I currently am.

It's unfortunate to have such a large increase, but I'm not willing to take the chance in not registering a copyright for a novel so...

I am a member of a group called by technocrats as "content creators." As a writer living at the margins, I have grown accustomed to our heads of state working to make life for me and my group harder than it usually is. The proposed fee increase is a mean hike in administrative costs that I can't avoid paying. But as the administration makes such decisions, they feel arbitrary, frustrating to me personally, and hostile to my work as a writer, all coming from as a group of people who couldn't care less how this will impact my ability to produce my materials.

Harder and harder to live these days. It all adds up. While I think \$185 represents an alarming increase, it wouldn't deter me. I'm both traditionally published and independent, and I see registering US copyright as paying insurance. But I don't think my situation represents the majority of authors. I think most will struggle, or trust to luck that nobody breaches their copyright, which is now a forlorn hope given the ease with which AI companies can do it.

The sums involved are similar to what I've had to spend to meet deposit libraries' demands to supply free hardcovers in the UK and ROI, which has wiped out all my earnings on hardcovers via Ingram to date. That was my main reason for no longer publishing in the UK. But US copyright has more than paid for itself by enabling me to take part in class actions like Anthropic, so I'd bite the bullet.

I also don't publish as frequently as I used to. My books are much longer these days, so I'm averaging one a year instead of three or four now. But I'm aware of many authors in the indie world who publish very frequently because that's their business model to maintain reader interest and momentum. I can imagine that would make \$185 a book prohibitive in many cases.

Also... we found out the hard way with the Anthropic case that publishers have failed to register copyright. The advice now is to register your traditionally published book yourself, regardless of whether your publisher has as well, just to be sure. If I've understood that correctly, that means paying for it, so does every author who's worried about their publisher's diligence also pay the increased sum that their publisher has (possibly) paid as well? I might have got that wrong, but it looks like a messy grey area to me.

While I can understand the budgetary issues for the Copyright Office, hiking prices that much

I am an agent. I have done registrations when clients' publishers refuse to do it (publishers used to ALWAYS do it but some are "cutting costs" by changing the contract language to "may register" instead of "shall register"). And we found out during the Anthropic case that A LOT of copyrights that were supposed to be registered (by BIG FIVE publishers) were NOT registered. (They blamed COVID and I get that; you do need to send physical copies and can't do it remotely.) But we are ALREADY having this issue of publishers not wanting to register the copyright any longer when it's been their responsibility forever. Without copyright protection, works can be infringed and the PUBLISHER is the one who makes money from having an exclusive license to the work.

My worry is this is going to make more and more publishers stop registering copyright and it will fall to authors to do it when they shouldn't have to (it's not hard once you learn what the Library of Congress wants to see, but I am sure there are those not equipped to do the online forms and such). Now is not the time for this!

Although I would not be affected, I know there are writers who are upset by even modestly increased costs of doing business (as with the changes at D2D). I think it's important to get the word out about the importance of registering one's copyright and the many situations in which this becomes advantageous.

I do not like this one bit. I'm sorry about the budget cuts but this hits hard here too.

The single application is very useful for many authors, especially those who publish a single book after years of work.

In a time when AI companies are being sued for infringing on authors' copyrights, it seems to be against the best interest of authors to increase the most established legal protection they have to get paid if their work is stolen.

I am self-published and would still register, but I know a lot of authors who self-publish might not be able to afford the higher fees.

Senseless increase in these troubled times. What is their reasoning behind the near doubling? Thank you for bringing this to authors' attention.

I would pay to the fee to make sure my work is protected. As a writer who doesn't have much money, I think the better option would be to increase the fee for a company or organization, not for individuals.

It seems to take me 5 to 10 years to write and publish a book. It's not a huge burden to pay an extra \$20 every 5 to 10 years. Plus, wouldn't the publishing company usually pay this? When I published my first book I thought my publisher was supposed to pay and register my book, but they didn't, so I had to. (The contract was vague about who would pay and register the book.) In any case, even if the publishing company doesn't pay, it's not a huge burden on me as an author.

Since the privacy claims, all authors are scrambling to copyright our back titles. Indie authors don't earn that much now. This is an added burden for us.

Small publishers would certainly stop the practice or drop it on the authors, which would mean most indie authors would not go through the bother and cost.

I submitted a comment to them on their official site. Might help if you encourage all members to do the same and increase the number of comments so they understand the impact. By making it more difficult for authors they go against their own mission statement.

While these changes will not prevent me from registering my copyright, it may mean that I release less books per year due to it. It means I need to plan for the copyright filing more seriously than I have in the past. \$45 was much easier to take the hit for than \$85.

In this economy \$85 is asking a lot of the average person. This will heavily impact indie authors. It seems indies are getting hit from multiple angles right now, and all of it compounding may deter some indies from continuing if it continues to unfairly hit our pockets.

It would not prevent me from filing my work for copyright, but only because I care greatly about protecting my work. Especially amidst the growing concern of generative AI.

That said, almost doubling the cost of filing would greatly hinder my ability to afford most things in my life. As a disabled author, I barely have enough every month to buy groceries and other monthly expenses. Along with that, it is of course quite pricey merely to market our books. So the new \$85 fee would inevitably arrive as a deep wound in my side.

I paid \$65 so I must've used the standard application, but I'm not sure why I didn't use the single application—maybe I didn't know it existed? I'd be unhappy about the increase but given the way things are going with AI, it seems more important than ever to register so I would continue to do it.

Maybe the Copyright Office could pair this increase with giving out ISBNs for free, like in Canada, so that authors would save money on that item instead of being forced to use the Bowker monopoly system. Not that it would help me as I sucked it up and bought 100, but it would be a nice gesture.

You have writers and publishers over a barrel because it is increasingly necessary to have copyright registration.

I don't like the fact that the fee would be doubled. However, since it's impossible to sue for copyright infringement without having first registered a work, I feel we're forced to accept whatever fee is charged.

I'm interested in knowing exactly how the fees are determined and, specifically, how and why the new rate structure was determined.

Too much money!

I will always want to register my books, though I will definitely continue to register digitally, with those increases in fees.

However, because my periodical fees are so low, and although I only registered a group of articles once a year, doubling the fee would probably at least make me think twice, and might deter me from registering a group of articles. And that would be a shame, because I received a payout as the result of Tasini because my works were registered.

Writing can be rewarding without being terribly lucrative. With periodical fees, in particular, not climbing, I think newer writers, not realizing what they're putting at risk, might see the registration of group works as a barrier.

More expenses add up for authors, especially these days when many of us are turning to hybrid or self publishing.

I'm the author of seven books. The increased fees put a burden on me that feels unfair because the copyright is the primary way of protecting literary work. We have no other choice.

While it would not deter me from registering my work, I think it's a bad idea to raise prices to such a higher amount. It's one thing to raise a price by 5 to 10 dollars, but to pretty much double it and more is outrageous. The government is not working for their constituents. This is one more poor decision by the current administration.

Most creative works are created by people who dream of big success but, at the time of registration, often don't have a lot of money. This is a burden for low-income individuals. It isn't like these increases are targeting large corporations who can write it off as cost of doing business.

The existing copyright website did not work for me. I had to pay LegalZoom to do it for me and I am a technical writer. I believe other authors have had the same issues. Very frustrating.

This is part of the trend of the last 25 years for tax-dodging by the rich and ultra-rich to shift tax burdens onto the 99 percent. I would be able to afford these changes, but oppose them on principle.

This is bullsh*t.

The increase would be a considerable burden, and make it more difficult to afford the fees as I publish 6-8 books a year.

The copyright office is supposed to protect ideas for the common good. Any increase in fees is counter to that purpose. The very least the office can do is keep the process accessible and cheap so that everyone can use it.

Any extra fees that authors have to pay, including ones that the authors guild imposes on us, creates a huge hardship, especially during these economic times

This proposed change seems to benefit only AI generated works. How would anyone publish 50 online publications a month? I mean blogs, sure. But who copyrights their blogs?

While no one likes higher taxes and fees, I find this reasonable if unpleasant. The low rate is now 4.25 months of Netflix's upcoming hiked subscription. That is not bad for lifetime protection and vastly less than the legal cost of fighting for violated unregistered work. I would take it better if there were a discount for low-net-income writers, America can still afford that.

Based on what's happening technologically, and the outright copying/theft/duplication of works, particularly eBooks and online resources, it's mandatory that an author register a work BEFORE sending it out to agents and/or publishers.

Fee increases will make it more difficult for writers living on little income to publish their work. Go ahead with this plan and they'll cut the Little Guy out of writing and publishing even more. What gets written and published will increasingly come from elitists, wealthy publishing conglomerates, etc. What a great way to shove even more power into their clutches!

I think a single Application, especially for writers like me who write short stories, is most doable. It's the only application I use. I could accept an increase on a single application to \$65 per registration. But 85 is onerous and hard to support when you barely make any money.

It wouldn't keep me from registering, but it might deter other authors, and this is coming at a time when establishing copyright has never been more important, and authors filing their own copyrights is increasingly common. It seems that these latter two factors would help increase the needed revenues without needing to nearly double the rates authors must pay.

The elimination of the single application would disproportionately affect the individual author. Rather than DIScouraging such authorship, the Copyright Office should ENCourage it.

I also write entries for reference works which are copyrighted as a whole by the publisher when written and also when revisions are published and/or issued I do not control the copyright status.

I am in the fortunate position of being able to pay the increase. But this isn't about me. This is about the writers who can't afford or would have difficulty paying the increased fee. Beyond this is the issue of honesty. A single work is a single work and should be treated as such. Thank you.

Between these copyright costs increasing and the fact that having copyrighted material is not safe from being fed into the AI machine for learning which will eventually put me out of a job, it really doesn't seem like a good expense any longer. There is very little protection that copyright even offers.

The costs would hinder most small-indie or lower-income authors from copyrighting their work. The single application is easy, without unnecessary paperwork. Ridding that application and doubling costs, is unneeded.

Given the dangerous and destructive efforts of this current administration to halt dissemination and protection of the written word, any deterrent or added obstacle to maintaining freedom of speech via owning ones work through copyright should be vigorously opposed.

These fees are getting ridiculous. Everywhere you turn, the government is asking for a handout. I'm sick and tired of being their fodder

It seems that 'they' are making it harder and harder for writers to make it. I'm sure this has something to do with all the AI sludge that is out there, but for those who are just trying to survive, this definitely makes it harder. I write genre fiction and don't always file the copyright. For indie works, but this hike will definitely have me thinking before I register some of my works.

I would never go to the trouble of publishing a book without registering for copyright.

The fee would disincentivize me to register because my earnings don't support almost double the old fee. I would think the Copyright Office needs revenue, not a dropoff from people like me who would think twice.

I would love to see the single application stay, and would be fine with a rate increase (the cost of everything has and continues to increase). The proposed changes, create more work for independent authors (we only need the simple single application) and also doubles the current cost of applying. This cost has kept so many indie authors from filing, a barrier to low income and marginalized authors, and that number will only increase. Weakening the protection authors have significantly. For me specifically, it would make me pause and consider before registering my works. Whereas, I've always filed without pause.

I cannot afford to pay additional fees for copyright application.

I probably will not be writing or registering any new works in the future, but this increase is significant and would have hurt. In one case, my publisher would not legally register a copyright for a book they published as winner of a contest. I did so when I learned that and subsequently registered two more. It was expensive as it was for a person on limited income, but I would have done it even if it were more expensive because I believe legal protection is essential.

this is onerous for most writers. owning your copyright should be easy and cheap.

Prices go up; expenses go up. Seems reasonable to me.

I have been working to register my back catalog because my previous publisher failed to do so, which has unfortunately cost me a lot of money in the Bartz v. Anthropic settlement. I have about a dozen books that need registration, and I'm still working toward that, as I don't make a lot of money. If they raise the costs, I won't be able to afford to continue to register my works in a timely manner anymore.

Difficult to know at this time how fee changes will affect me. Sorry, but as much as I dislike the idea of increases, I don't know if that will have a real impact on me.

Now that my publisher has gone out of business, I am self-registering because I've moved to self-publishing, and these increases are a significant hurdle.

While I understand the Copyright office has not raised its fees in many years, authors' incomes have also not increased. In many cases, our incomes have declined in this economy. This is going to be a painful choice for many authors who are barely making it.

An increase from \$45 to \$85 is quite a jump! It won't stop me from copyrighting--it's too important a step--and I understand that offices like this are in a budget crunch. But consideration should be given to differentiating between the one-or-two-books/year Indie author and the large publishing houses submitting on behalf of hundreds of authors.

I am a literary translator, so never first in line.

To this point, publishers have always absorbed the cost of my copyright on my translation. I fear that if the costs to them increase, they will tell me to assume that cost. As a translator, my royalties tend to be in the 1.5 - 2.5 percent range. It is already virtually impossible for a literary translator to support themselves on the little we make. My worry is that these increases would both be passed onto the translator; and make publishers hesitate even more to engage in making literature from other languages accessible to English-speaking readers, cutting us off even more from the rest of the world.

Margins are narrow for published print works already. Increasing these fees would pinch authors financially when the economy is already in a downturn. Many authors might forego memberships like the Author's Guild in order to pay for a copyright.

Such great increases in cost come at a time when it is harder than ever for an independent author to sell books and earn royalties.

I disagree with the increase but realistically it's still a necessary price I would have to pay to protect my work. It wouldn't materially impact my decision to register the copyright.

As a hybrid author, I'm meticulous about registering my copyrights. Luckily, all my trad-publisher partners have done likewise, which saved my bacon in the recent Anthropic suit. But this much of a price hike will place a much bigger financial burden on indie authors like me who sometimes face leaner months, and who find themselves registering 6-10 books per year, depending on output. It's incredibly expensive for what's essentially bureaucratic bullshit, and feels incredibly unfair to small, independent authors with high output.

With AI, copyright is more critical than ever to keep the profession of author's an actual profession. Without being able to protect our work, we cannot make enough to call writing a career. Look at what's happening at the WGA! They are not getting paid if their scripts are used to train AI, but we can be because we own our IP.

I think a copyright filed is still important to protect my original work - but cost margins are already so tight for authors. Big publishers - no problem, they make sure they take the bulk of royalties. I make \$0.45 on a hardback sales, \$1 on paperback and \$4 on ebook after everyone else takes a cut. any additional expenses hits really hard, this change will disproportionately hit smaller publishers and indie authors who are already at a disadvantage in the publishing industry.

Almost doubling the cost would present a significant barrier to authors publishing through small presses which do not pick up the cost of copyright.

The biggest barrier for me is not price increase, it's the fact that I submitted my most recent work in September of 2025 and am still waiting on copyright to be processed. My book was published four months ago at this point.

As an indie author, publishing costs are already so high, this increase would be very hard to afford on top of everything else.

For small indie authors like myself, raising the fee from \$45 to \$85 would be massively detrimental and prevent me from filing a copyright, which then leaves me with no legal recourse should something happen with my book in the future. We are being unfairly targeted with this ridiculous price increase!

If the registration fee is not able to pay for the applicable cost of registration, then the price should be increased. The copyright office isn't a charity, and we get legal benefits from the registration.

Do I want to pay \$20 more? Naaah, but if the cost has been subsidized, then we should pay the actual fee.

it's not that we can't publish WITHOUT copyrights, we can... it just means we don't get monetary compensation if somebody screws with our stuff.

In reality, the copyright doesn't stop pirates, etc, and \$85 is a small price to pay for those who CAN pursue it (or have a willingness to participate in class actions like anthropic.)

\$85 for lifetime protection of a work is the equivalent of pennies, and if the fee doesn't cover the costs, it's fair to increase the fee.

It's so sad that lowering taxes on the rich prompts increase on the rest of us.

The \$45 fee was already pricey but raising it to \$85 is a budget buster for almost all authors. Especially those authors who are prolific. I'm still waiting on registration copies to be mailed from last fall. It's disappointing that you are proposing this because it means our hard work won't be protected, and we're already preyed upon by people stealing our work for AI, etc.

The increase in fees would be very burdensome to writers and create more problems and vulnerabilities for copyright infringements.

I wouldn't submit copyright applications with the raised fees.

I would likely still file, but by essentially doubling the fee, I would have to tighten my belt elsewhere. And I think many self-publishing single-title writers will skip copyright altogether, opening themselves up even further to pirates and AI robbery of their work. The US Copyright Office should be devoted to PROTECTING authors and their work, not abandoning them.

That is a ridiculous fee for copyright. It will prohibit many authors from being able to afford copyrights which decreases the security for piracy.

Higher fee not a deterrent but a nuisance.
