

From: [Emily Robbins](#)
To: [TM FR Notices](#)
Subject: Dire concern about fees for filing a Letter of Protest
Date: Monday, September 23, 2019 10:40:02 AM

I am writing to voice my concern about the proposed \$100-200 fee for filing a letter of protest.

I file letters of protest because an extreme number of frivolous trademarks have regularly been approved by USPTO in the apparel category.

The USPTO has been approving frivolous trademarks without researching to examine if the terms are already in common use. These trademarks affect my business negatively as I am regularly having to take down apparel designs that have been selling for sometimes longer than a year because the new TM owner files takedown notices with both Amazon and Etsy, where I am a seller of apparel. This means regularly lost income based on absurd TMs that never should have been approved such as "DOGS" (5843989), "1970" (5651855), "REMATCH" (5693289), "WAR" (5544499), "NEIGHBORHOOD" (5505435), "GINGER" (5522713), and, ironically, "MISTAKES" (5544220).

A fee would present a hardship to me because my husband has End-Stage Liver Disease and is disabled so I am the sole provider and am barely even able to keep a roof over our heads. There is absolutely no way that I could afford to file much needed (and appropriate) Letters of Protest if fees were charged.

Please consider changing the examiner's trademark review process for apparel items to include an online search to rule out widespread use.

Instead of forcing small business owners to pay for letters of protest, consider raising the cost of filing a trademark to cover USPTO's operational costs.

Sincerely,
Emily R.

My fiancé has End Stage Liver Disease and we need your help so he can beat this and get a liver transplant.

Please share the below link and consider donating - even \$1 makes a difference - as do prayers!!

<http://www.gofundme.com/brianlivertransplant>

His medical bills are already in the high 5 figures, which could prevent him from getting the transplant. Anything helps!

THANK YOU!
