It is the duty of governments to regulate the marketplace, especially when it comes to exploitative market activity that can harm the public interest. Make no mistake, regulation is not always a good thing, but when it comes to a market as incredibly uncompetitive as that of telecommunications, it is the lesser evil.

What this proposal would do would allow ISPs to engage in harmful rent-seeking. Rent-seeking is unproductive economic activity caused when a company asks for more to provide something that was previously free, at no added cost to the company itself. Normally, competition prevents rent-seeking behavior, but in oligopolistic and monopolistic markets such as telecoms, this is not the case. In markets such as these, the only way to prevent rent-seeking is through regulation.

Perhaps if there was more competition in the telecom market, I could support the rollback of net neutrality regulations, but as things are now, I cannot in good conscience support a decision that will harm the American people, our economy, our productivity, and our livelihoods for the sake of letting companies like Comcast further pad their profits. Regulation is not optimal, yes, but it is a far lesser evil than having none.