I know it is unlikely that anybody important will read this, but I hope today to provide the perspective of somebody who grew up with the internet. We live today in a world where not children, but young, voting-age (I know you guys like that) adults such as myself, do not remember a world without internet. In many ways, the world today reflects that. Almost any service is available online. Many more aspects of daily life have been completely or almost completely relegated to the internet. A few relevant examples: I applied for my job online, as did most of my friends. I pay rent online, as do most of my friends. I applied for college online. I make appointments online. I order textbooks and appliances. I could go on. Through the internet I am connected to my friends and family. It is present in almost every aspect of my life, and not just for superficial reasons like entertainment. I think that most people my age would agree, the internet is necessary for anybody to act as a fully functioning member of society. Needless to say, the issue of net neutrality weighs heavily on my heart.

At this point, you might point out that the sites that allow me to apply for jobs or pay rent will be unaffected by the loss of net neutrality. I disagree. If ISPs are allowed to discriminate between internet services then I will get less choice. The loss of net neutrality will make it more difficult for new services to get momentum, as both they and I will have to pay extra just to get access to each other. Perhaps a new small business I could have worked at will never be able to get a website up, and I’ll never hear that they’re hiring or be able to submit an application.

You might also be tempted to point out that if I am unhappy with an ISP’s service I can just switch to a new one. However, a majority of Americans don’t have access to more than one or two ISPs. Speaking from personal experience it is costly to switch ISPs. Many of them (I’m looking at you Comcast) have difficult to escape contracts and difficult on a college student’s budget fines. It is simply unrealistic to assume I or most Americans can shop around. Many of us are just plain stuck with our current ISP and we’d like for you to not give them another way to make our lives unnecessarily difficult.

Finally, I’d like to get a little cheesy. The internet is priceless because it provides any user access to the largest collection of information and art there has ever been. It’s the world’s best library. Most importantly, access to that information, and the ability to let your voice be heard, is unfettered. I think that over the years, the world has changed for the better because of this. Any question we might ask, any interest we might have, can be satisfied. Anybody can let their voice be heard, not just the big rich guys. It’s saved my ass on a lot of papers. It’s entertained me. It’s helped me grow. I have access to people I’ll never meet and places I’ll never visit. The internet is not only a necessity in order for me to pay my rent and buy my textbooks, but a valuable cultural and intellectual resource. I was raised under net neutrality, and I know I am better for it.

I hope and pray you will make the right choice, but I doubt anybody will read this. Either way, I can assure you that I, and I imagine many other young people who have similar feelings, will be closely following this issue. If you did read this, I thank you for your time.