The FCC’s open Internet rules are extremely important to me on a daily basis. I use the Internet to get to my email, make purchases, and get information about a variety of topics. If ISP’s have the ability to block or slow down certain sites, giving other sites an unfair advantage, this takes away my choice to visit certain sites over others.

I am part of a string trio. We play wedding and other special events in our area. Our primary form of communication with out clients is via email. We are also in the process of setting up a website to make our information readily available for potential clients to find easily. Without the open Internet rules, we will not be able to do business effectively and efficiently. None of our clients will be able to find us.

While I buy products from Amazon and Ebay, many of my online purchases are from private sellers’ websites or their shops on Etsy. My weekly fitness classes are from a small business owner who collects our membership fees on her website. I really love my fitness classes, and I hope to see her studio grow as I continue to attend. If open access does not continue, however, I fear her business will suffer as my musical group will.

Allowing ISP’s to censor content and websites based on who pays for increased access or not hurts businesses of all sizes. Please remember that these businesses are people’s livelihoods, whether it is their life’s work or simply their paycheck. It denies people their freedom of choice, hurts the open marketplace and the economy, and inevitably inhibits people’s ability to better their lives.