I'm not going to mince words. You know this is wrong. You know this is wrong and the people in power are going to do it anyway because they don't care about common Americans having the freedom afforded by fair access to the internet. The people in power care only about keeping that power, and expanding it along with their wealth. The people in power do not care about income, education, or access inequality, they care about power. I could take this time to urge you to do what logic, common sense, and humanity dictate should be done; keeping the internet freely accessible, neutral and not subject to paywalls or corporate interests. But, from everything I can see, that would do little to no good. So, I'm going to tell you that you're dooming this country to regress into that of a third world state. You're dooming this country to continue to serve corporate interests over those of the citizenry. You're dooming this country to continue on the path of ignorance, malice, and greed. I, myself, am not going to be affected by this because I am leaving this country for good within the next 6 months. Because I am a woman, and because my closest friends are minorities, immigrants, and members of the LGBTQ community, this country has treated me and my dearest friends abominably. And, it shows no signs of getting better, only worse.

The EPA says that we shouldn't let science determine policy; the 'president' thinks that nazi's and people opposing them are morally the same. Giant corporations continue to merge and buyout others. Men everywhere continue to deny that sexism is a thing. White people everywhere continue to deny that racism is a thing, or if they admit it's a thing, they think it's a valid and true way of thinking. Scientists in Europe are noticing that windshields don't have as many splattered bugs on them as they used to. Poor and middle class people are looked at as unworthy of health care if they can't afford it. Corporations and government think that people don't need to make a living wage. Climate change, that threatens all of humanity and nature, is deemed a liberal hoax. People who genuinely care and want to make things better are derided as "social justice warriors" which should be a good thing, but they've made it into a slur. Government officials are doing everything they can to rape the earth and steal from the workers all for greed and power. And now you want to take away the ability to equally access information.

An article I read a few months ago had a line that keeps echoing in my head. "I don't know how to explain to you that you should care about other people." And that's it, that's the root of everything. Everyone in this country has problems caring about other people. Whether it's because of their race, sex, religion, sexuality, gender, class, amount of wealth, whatever. Everyone here thinks less of at least one group of people around them and refuses to admit that it's a problem.

How do you explain that as a society, we MUST care about all of the other people around us? Oh, we pretend we care when there's a crisis like the hurricane in Texas. We use disasters to convince ourselves and others that we're a good person. But, we probably spent the last week muttering about how maybe statues of racist traitors should be left alone; or how maybe that antifa group is just as bad as a group of nazi's; or maybe just thinking that these kneeling NFL players are disrespectful.

I am so sick at heart and wounded in my soul that THIS is what America is right now. Maybe it's always been this bad and I just didn't see it. Maybe I had such dear friendships that it blinded me to the sickness permeating this 'great nation.' Maybe it actually IS worse than it used to be? I don't know. I do know that I have reached the limit of what a soul can bear. My battered, bruised, broken and much-mended soul is TIRED. I'm tired. I'm tired of trying to do the right thing and getting treated worse for doing it. I'm tired of the fear, the hurt, the sheer exasperation of looking around and wondering why people don't have a care for anyone or anything but themselves. And for the life of me and this planet, I still can't figure out how to explain to anyone that you should care about other people, in small ways and large. You should care about the person next to you in traffic and you should care about the people in Syria. You should care about the people in Houston and you should care about the trapped people in North Korea. You should care about letting everyone have equal access to information rather than ensuring that you can continue to get campaign donations from ISP's. You should care about all of humanity, because, because, because we're all HUMAN and if you don't care about others, you can't possibly effectively care about yourself.

I have no hope. I envision a future spinning out where the devastation comes slowly. Devastation to the earth, and devastation to the soul. Then, one day a mild disaster takes place, and another, and another, and then everyone looks around in horror at the charred and tattered remains of humanity and this earth and wonders how we got here. We'll all know how we got there, we just won't be brave enough to accept the fact that we failed. We failed ourselves, our species, and our planet. If I am alive to see it, I don't want to hear anyone blame others. We have only ourselves to blame because we didn't care if we left half open sugar packets in the break room for someone else to clean up. We didn't care if we bought a huge, shiny new car because we felt like we earned it. We didn't care if we voted for politicians who want to destroy the earth, because, well, abortion is wrong, isn't it? We didn't care if we got everything through Amazon Prime, because it's just SO convenient. We didn't care about the floods and fires and earthquakes because, well, gas is cheaper now than it used to be. We didn't care if net neutrality was gutted because, hey, I live in a big city, it probably won't affect me. And I don't know how to explain to anyone that they SHOULD care.

So, do what you plan to do anyway. Continue breaking down the bonds of humanity, continue shilling for corporate interests, and continue letting those in power keep what they have and continue to amass more and more. I won't be watching from afar, I'm going to be far away, and I hope when things finally break beyond bearing, that you all suffer the same degradations that women, minorities, the LGBTQ community, atheists, immigrants and all those 'other' groups have already suffered in this 'great country.'