To the members of the FCC:

I am writing as a private citizen, and also as a college instructor, urging you to please preserve the protections of the Internet under the existing Title II protections.

The Internet was originally developed through tax-funded efforts at DARPA, and by the creativity and efforts of college professors, research scientists and others over a period of years. It was never the brainchild of just the telecoms. Big telecoms wouldn’t exist today in their present iteration without these original large publicly funded, and citizen driven efforts. It is a terrible irony that big telecoms’ success has been largely driven by the Internet as it exists NOW.

The Internet belongs to all of us. It is a resource for my students, a place to learn, to be informed, to reach out to others, to connect, to practice the freedoms of democracy. It should NEVER be considered as just another for-profit entity.

I know my students and myself will lose access to some of the resources we use in our classroom, if the loss of neutrality occurs, if gateways are installed and the internet becomes like a toll bridge, or HOV lanes. If you can’t afford it, you will be relegated to the slow lanes. Or worse, the destinations you used to visit will no longer be accessible, because they, too, couldn’t afford the access.

Not everything in the U.S. should be for profit. Not every solution is a business-driven one (or shouldn’t be). There is a much larger principle of decency and democracy here that needs to be respected and preserved. I implore the FCC to listen to the voices of the many millions who have asked that the Title II protections be preserved. I’m literally pleading for it, with all my heart.

Respectfully,

Julia F. Learn

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