Rolling back Title II regulation on telecom companies would be a massive step backwards for our country. The internet’s greatest benefit is the ability to find information and content regardless of source. By rescinding net neutrality laws, we would be allowing telecom companies to act as information regulators: This is the wrong choice for an industry that is widely criticized for poor service, obscure contract loopholes, and a lack of transparency. The idea that telecom companies will use the increased power and reduced accountability granted by rolling back net neutrality to help its customers is laughable.

Stratifying information and putting it behind paywalls is a terrifying prospect, and the truth is that we don’t know the metrics or considerations by which telecom companies would make those decisions. Access to information is one of the most important markers for liberty and freedom in a country. China’s great Fire Wall and North Korea’s limits on internet access are seen as despotism, and rightfully so. By allowing telecom companies to choose what information we see, and for how much, we are allowing a similar system to take place on American soil, a system controlled by opaque companies and one that unequally burdens the poor.

It doesn’t seem like it sometimes, but the internet is still new, and it’s already one of the most powerful tools we have as a society. That’s all the more reason to regulate it and prevent abuse. Our service providers need to be held accountable. Please, do not repeal Title II regulations. Keep the internet equitable, fair, and free.