

My name is Amber Cigelske and I stand with Title Two Net Neutrality and I would like to oppose the FCC's plan to remove them for many reasons as I will state. Firstly, removal of the Title Two Net Neutrality ruling would prevent millions of Americans from accessing necessary information that is required to form lucid opinions on important matters such as elections and laws being put into place. Not only that but millions of children across America utilize the Free internet everyday for public schooling. In a society that is constantly updating technology, the internet has become a necessity when doing homework or research for school related projects. The in home wifi and ethernet cords are not free now and can already be difficult for families living in low income homes to obtain a router and pay a monthly fee. Imagine the bill increasing because of required subscriptions to packages or websites. You may say that certain websites would be free (like pbs for cable and other basic channels) but schools tend to utilize many different websites and it would be unlikely that access to these websites would be included in a list of free websites. These websites include Youtube, scholarly websites, and large name online newspaper and information services.

Secondly, restricting access to the internet opens doors to further restriction in the future. History repeats itself, and if we'd like to prevent past mistakes, we must learn from them! Numerous countries under totalitarian rule, many of which we have criticised in the past or are now considered enemies of the state, have restricted internet access in order to prevent information from being accessible to the people. Some of the countries that currently restrict internet access are North Korea, Cuba, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Syria, and China. Especially in the case of North Korea, restricting internet access often leads to future restrictions of the press and news media. Because of this, the North Korean people have little information and knowledge of the outside world and often are told false information so that they follow without question. This type of totalitarian rule WILL lead to a dystopian future. If the American people feel that their information is being restricted, there will be protest and restricted cooperation from them.

Lastly, restricting the open internet could potentially inhibit freedom of speech. The internet has become the main source of sharing opinion and facts in today's society. Newspapers are going out of business or moving online. Even visual news media has moved online. In a society that restricts internet access, many citizens would not be able to afford the required internet packages or websites needed to share their opinions or hear the opinions of other people. Platforms like Youtube are important sources of information and information sharing that most American citizens will utilize almost daily. If internet is restricted, a massive platform for citizens to exercise the first amendment will be taken away.

I strongly urge you to consider how these things will affect America and our society.