

## Comment on the repeal of Net Neutrality

Repealing Net Neutrality bears the substantial risk of disproportionately affecting poor, minority populations, particularly in areas of education. Elementary and high schools are increasingly moving online learning.<sup>1</sup> Regardless of the efficacy of the use of online textbooks and learning, if internet service providers are permitted to increase prices for access to these types of website, the poorer students will be the ones who are most affected. There is already a cycle of poverty in poor, minority neighborhoods, and restrictions to these websites will also substantially reduce even the possibility of education for these minorities, thereby keeping children stuck in the cycle. Additionally, even if the websites themselves are not restricted, bandwidth caps may functionally behave in the same way as specific blocks on particular websites. Net neutrality is incredibly important to lower class populations and repealing it is a step to limiting the fundamental right to education.

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<sup>1</sup> See e.g., The Inquirer, *Textbooks Could Be History as Schools Switch to Free Online Learning*, March 19, 2017, <http://www.philly.com/philly/education/History-books-could-soon-be-history-as-schools-switch-to-free-online-learning.html>