I am writing to voice my support for Title 2 oversight of ISPs, and oppose the repeal of net neutrality rules for the following reasons. As a licensed educator, community nurse advocate, and educational therapist I can attest to the necessity of access to the Internet for all American citizens, across the developmental life span. Access to the internet has become an integral component of:

Education – the majority of public schools, in order to make educational material more accessible to our nation’s youth, and to reduce the cost of education, have initiated or are in the process of initiating, 1:1 educational programs. The bulk of our students learning materials now exist online. Children in rural settings have access to text books and educational programs previously unavailable to them. Students utilize the internet for collaboration, research, innovation, and application of content learned in solution based environments made possible by the internet.

*Higher Education –* Educational institutions cannot meet the shortage of primary care givers, nurses, teachers, law enforcement, etc. without the ability to offer online or hybrid programs. Students and professionals seeking these high needs career areas require access to the Internet.

Finances – The majority of US citizens access their financial institutions, pay bills, manage student loans, manage medical, dental, vision, car and life insurance accounts, manage retirement accounts etc. via an internet portal. Many employers mandate direct deposit, and internet access is necessary to verify one has received their pay, and that the amounts for gross, net, deductions, etc. are accurate.

Medical – More than 80% of all insurance agencies and healthcare agencies offer a client portal through which consumers access benefits, locate covered providers and clinics, schedule care, fill prescriptions, **order life maintaining durable medical equipment**, submit / share records with specialists, review their electronic health record, communicate with providers, and even **access telephonic medical services.**

Health professionals require access to the internet for documentation purposes, continuing education purposes, to renew and maintain licensure. To access, review or report diagnostic test results. (this list would be too exhaustive, but every aspect of care today depends on Internet access as a communication tool between healthcare agencies, providers, and patients.)

Civic Obligations – Across the country, services have moved online such as Division of Motor Vehicle, Social Services, County and State elections offices, local, county and state courts, **Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Departments, Emergency Response Services**, Public Libraries, Parks & Recreation Services, Animal Control.

Citizen access to the Internet has become a necessity for renewing a driver’s license or state ID, renewing motor vehicle registration, paying fees or fines for citations, registering to vote, changing legal address, signing up for the selective services, **filing taxes**, **receiving Emergency Alerts and information on evacuations, communicating during natural disasters.**

The American society has moved a large percent of the daily governance, community involvement, and life maintenance / activities of daily living to the Internet in an effort to reduce costs and meet the growing needs of urban, suburban and rural citizens.

Access to the internet has become a necessity.

It is in the interest of the United States government at all levels of governance to maintain net neutrality regulations; any move to the opposite will result in wholesale disruption of civil and public services.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Nelson, RN BSN; MA Ed Psych