In today’s modern world, the Internet is a required necessity in our everyday life and in business. Television itself is adapting into a purely internet entertainment, newspapers deliver their journalism to the masses over webpages instead of paper, and small businesses even depend on internet connection in order to grow and survive. We find our jobs through it, we shop for our products through it, and we even have reduced the majority of our social interaction to social media over Wi-Fi and LTE networks.

Businesses would argue Net Neutrality disrupts business competition. I argue the internet isn’t about, or never should be about, competition. The internet is a necessity to our modern lives that serves as a vessel for all other competition and our freedom to develop and express ourselves. To control the internet and what we view is to give businesses the power not to compete, but to control our daily lives. It is like requiring extra payment to see your other options, to even visit Amazon or E-Bay, to be given the opportunity to see what newspapers are out there. There is a difference with providing the ability to access the internet, and choosing where IN the internet you get to visit.

Business can start to dictate to small business what values they accept to patrol their internet. A democratic centric business would be perfectly legally slowed, or even blocked, because of their views on abortion. A republican business could be perfectly legally blocked for the same reason, but for the opposite view. The viewpoints of the business, on the whim of their values, can start significantly effecting what we can and cannot see and there would be nothing to keep them from doing otherwise. Freedom of speech would be squandered on a network that is required to have in order to hear what everyone has to say.

What’s even worse, many areas have no choice what internet provider they can use. Businesses like Comcast have a vast monopoly on certain areas. Without net neutrality, those areas would be subject to the whim, values, and partnerships of Comcast.

Some say since competition would be started, people would start to see more options. If that hasn’t happened by now, it will never happen. Period. No one should kid themselves with that logic. Even if there was more competition coming into those areas, which will never happen, you’re now starting to choose whose tunnel you get to look through. Freedom of speech is still impaired and you are still controlled. You just get to choose how you’re controlled. That is not acceptable.

Businesses have a tendency to cooperate in certain ways when it benefits them. If both businesses can block the same stuff, requiring extra payment, they have no reason not to do it. It means more money, and with businesses that want to end net neutrality, they want the money that comes with it. None of those businesses will operate like they were still under Net Neutrality rules. If they would, they wouldn’t want to end the law. At least they would’ve spoken out against it. But even if they did, money numbers rule the business and will ultimately decide their actions.

The internet is not a competition. The internet is a modern requirement, like electricity. We do not pay for what we want to light in our house, we pay for electricity to get to our home. The internet is no different. Let us instead compete over the business’ ability to provide that internet in whole, instead of trying to break it into pieces of what they want you to see. We as Americans have a right to see everything and all our options. That is free speech, that is our pursuit of happiness, and that is how we will continue to grow. Do not squander the gift of the internet and what it gives. We must keep net neutrality. We must keep this working foundation intact.