Brittany Gisi  
December 12, 2017

I am writing in opposition of your support of dismantling net neutrality. I am a second-year medical student at the University of Pittsburgh. I wholeheartedly believe that I would not have made it to medical school without an open internet. Growing up, medical school was a prohibitively expensive goal. I read many articles, blogs, and personal stories on message boards about how to finance getting to medical school. Once I saved enough, I began my pre-requisite classes.

During my pre-medical education, I worked part-time as a nurse to fund my courses and unpaid research internship during the week. Money was very tight. I could not afford many of the recommended materials for my classes. Instead, I heavily utilized free videos, online courses, and written explanations available online. I could not afford to have separate phone and internet service. Having to choose one or the other, I chose the phone plan with data to use as my internet access. I was fortunate then that all sites were equally accessible to me with that choice in service: buying internet service at one price. If there were any additional costs added to the internet service, it would have jeopardized my ability to afford it. Without reliable internet, it would have been relatively impossible to be where I am today.

As a current medical student, I heavily utilize online resources to supplement my education and complete my required coursework. It’s very important to me to continue learning, shopping, and utilizing an internet in which participants all have an equal voice when it comes to sharing their content without additional throttling or costs. The internet has become a platform for people of all walks of life to share ideas, products, services, and communicate. By compromising the ability of free and open content, one stifles the flow of such information and creates inequities in what ideas and services can be utilized.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brittany Gisi, RN-BSN  
MD Candidate, Class of 2020