I feel removing Net Neutrality will directly affect the lives of all Americans. This is not going to benefit the average citizen, only large conglomerate companies. This country keeps expecting its citizens to be able to afford the climbing cost of living, with the minimum wage not raising. Cost of college and health care alone are putting people into lifelong debt. Now this is happening! This is going to raise the cost of internet, because companies will more easily be able to benefit from this.

The FCC stated that they “don’t think” it will cause companies to bundle or to direct its traffic to certain sites by slowing others down; but there is no guarantee! How do we know they will be transparent about their business? I don’t see companies shying away from breaking these rules to make a profit, because they will directly benefit. Large companies, like Verizon, will easily be able to afford penalties. The way things are going, I don’t see any repercussions in place for these large companies; the only ones who will suffer are small companies who are unable to compete with these conglomerates. This will then eliminate the competition, only leaving the big companies left to choose from, who will then have monopolized the market.

I also feel the population is not being heard on this topic. It’s clear all over social media how the general public feels about Net Neutrality, yet their claims are being pushed aside. It seems that big companies have the ear of the FCC, considering Ajit Pai was a former lawyer for Verizon, this can’t be a coincidence. Also considering this isn’t the first time this has been up for debate and was denied back in 2015. The public spoke up then and now the same verdict is in- the public wants Net Neutrality. Why are we being ignored? Because you do not have the general public’s interest in mind, you have greed in mind.

A large reason why I feel this should not pass, is because of college students. It’s so expensive, not a single part of college is cheap- except access to websites. The ability to research for class with no restrictions to sites (for now). How is a student who works part-time, going to school full time, afford to pay for: books, housing, food, gas, computers, and internet? Then on top of all of these expenses, are now expected to pay for sites individually or in bundles. The answer cannot be to take out more loans. This is not going to help them, it will only add to their problems.

Even if you change the narrative, it’s all the same; higher cost of living. Browsing the internet should not be a privilege for the wealthy. This will create a larger gap between citizens and information. If someone has to choose between the cost of basic living needs over the cost of browsing the internet, we all know what will win. There will then come a time when information is only a privilege for the wealthy. Net Neutrality is for the people and should remain that way.