

Family Not Reunited Without Internet Freedom

My story is very simple. I am partially disabled from a back injury complicated by spinal disease. It will worsen over time as it is degenerative. I've been like this for four years now. I am ALSO a single Mom. Well, not anymore; since i was able to reconnect to my daughter's birth father in October of 2006.

In late September 2006, I began the search for her father, whom she had asked for most insistantly in recent months. I only had One Hundred and Ninety Eight Dollars (\$198.00) a month to live on at that time, (TANF benefits). This was because I have not had the physical and mental/emotional strength to persistently fight for Disability Benefits with the diligence needed to win them.

Had the internet been controlled, and the costs to access it increased from where it is now, THIS Family would not have been happily reunited. And a certain six year old girl would have had to go without her father, and most likely also been given up for foster care, as my health, at that time, was deeply deteriorating. In essence, i reconnected with her father because she needed him as desperately as I did, and still do.

Because I could freely access the internet to locate him, and begin open communication over an unbiased internet that my income could afford, I was able to reconnect with her father, and the man that that we both desperately need in our lives.

We are all three a reunited family now, and a VERY happy one, with great potential for all our futures. Being strangled from ready and affordable access to the internet would have doomed this dream to an impossibility.

You are speaking to a Mom on the mend, health returning in small steps, and a hope of returning to the Work Force once again! This would NOT have happened were internet access prioritized only for those with the mega-money to guarantee their priority access to it.

The little girl in question now very happily has the father she had been seeking with all her heart and soul, and I now have the man that I dearly love back in my life, the Family Circle complete at last.

The mend for all three of us is at hand and succeeding beyond all our hopes and dreams. This would never have been possible if the internet had been controlled beyond my ability to pay for it in 2006, while trying to live on impossibly low TANF income.

Please do not choke off other mothers, fathers and daughters from the chance to find each other on an internet that is freely accessible and fair to all.

Corporations aren't paying for my medical bills, and they certainly did not have any interest in reuniting my family, and they never will. The internet should be kept on an even playing field for every person, from every economic background, educational level and place in the world.

I am only one Mother, but I am one of billions of mothers, each with their own unique voice, values and experiences. Close my voice, and you silence but one among the masses. Close the internet from other mothers who are fighting to survive on low income, and the world loses a treasure of values, wisdom, wit and character.

The FCC must ensure that broadband providers do not block, interfere with, or discriminate against any lawful Internet traffic based on its ownership, source or destination.

Thank you very kindly for your patient reading,

sincerely,

Vicki Howell, New Smyrna Beach, Florida