

Is Free Speech just for those who can afford it?

Either we believe in the right of Free Speech or we don't. To say we support Free Speech but then restrict the dissemination of that speech to those who can pay is tantamount to denying the right altogether. Access speed has become as critical to the impact of a particular internet file as has its content, be it text, video, music or other imagery. If a file is slow to download, internet users seek a faster site and the interval users are willing to wait is rapidly decreasing. If the speed of a particular site is restricted by the payment of fees to a "gatekeeper" the effect will be a chilling decline in the amount, diversity, and democracy of product available on the internet. The role of the FCC is to protect access to communication. No clearer example of this responsibility can be found than the obligation to protect communication provided to the world by unregulated access to the internet. 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.