

Net Neutrality is vital to our democracy

As an educator in a university, I see how drastically the internet has changed the ways in which we communicate, learn and stay informed. It may not be as obvious to the older generation currently in charge in corporate america or in government, but Generation X and those succeeding it have grown up with a neutral internet. They rely upon it much more than perhaps those who grew up with print media alone. The net is the single greatest information tool invented since the printing press. We owe it to ourselves and the generations to come to preserve its neutrality and prevent control of it from falling into the hands of a biased and privileged few corporate interests.

Net Neutrality is essential to free speech, equal opportunity and economic innovation in America. Since the FCC removed this basic protection in 2005, the top executives of phone and cable companies have stated their intention to become the Internet's gatekeepers and to discriminate against Web sites that don't pay their added tolls.

This fundamental change would end the open Internet as we know it. It would damage my ability to connect with others, share information and participate in our 21st century democracy and economy. 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.