

Either they are a common carrier or not. If Verizon is going to censor communications over its network, of any sort, then they must be held responsible for the communications they do permit. Verizon's blocking of NARAL's text messaging campaign violates the concept of Verizon being a common carrier, passing communications without being itself responsible for their content.

Carriers' assurances that they won't block political speech in the future are simply not enough. The FCC must take action to ensure that this does not happen again by making it clear that the nondiscrimination rules which have long applied to phone calls are also applicable to text messages and short codes.

They can't have it both ways -- immunity from responsibility, yet able to control what is carried.

If you do permit communications carriers to censor communications over their (otherwise) public networks, be sure they are held accountable. Did Gov. Spitzer, or anyone associated with the recent prostitution case, use a Verizon phone? Well, if Verizon controls the content of communications over its network then it must be prosecuted as well.

They, and other communications carriers, can't have it both ways. Allow all communications, or take responsibility for what they do allow.