

The only institutions empowered to regulate public communication such as the mail, phone lines, cable and air waves must remain those whose operatives are directly responsible to the American people through publicly elected officials.

Verizon's blocking of NARAL's text messaging campaign violates the principles of Free Speech which are critical to our nation's communications. The unrestricted ability to communicate with the people and organizations of my choice is just as important in text as it is in voice.

Today, text messages are being used for political action alerts, health information, by individuals, corporations, and government institutions. Whether or not I receive those messages should be my decision, not the wireless carriers'™. Assurances that wireless carriers 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.

Don't let wireless carriers be the gatekeepers that decide who may use new, important mediums like text messaging; please keep speech free, no matter what form it comes in.