

Verizon's blocking of NARAL's text messaging campaign violates the trust that customers place in common carriers, which have no right to restrict the principles of Free Speech that are cornerstones of the right of our nation's citizens. 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 decision of any interested party, such as a wireless carrier, their employees, management, business partners, or contractors. 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 any third party, like a wireless carrier, act as a gatekeeper. Don't allow any party to decide who or how a new, important medium like text messaging may be used. Please keep speech free, in every way and across every communications pathway.