

This should be one of those topics that is so obvious that debate is not needed. In the digital age there is no meaningful difference between voice and data communication, between a phone call and a text message. To think otherwise is to ignore the most basic principles of both free speech and the digital representation of information.

I urge you to act quickly and decisively to ensure that ALL forms of communication are unrestricted, open, accessible - whether the bits carry my voice or merely my thoughts, whether produced by my vocal cords or my fingers.

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.