

Violation of the first amendment

The concept of free internet is as American as a game of baseball. The internet, as it stands now and should be, is a perfect embodiment of the first amendment. Freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom to assemble, etc. Allowing internet providers to prioritize traffic based on the agendas of said providers is a direct violation of the first amendment. Furthermore, the imposing regulation of the service provider industry is analogous to regulations of other industries to prevent business taking advantage of their consumers.

What if you subscribed to cable television through a provider that had a known conservative agenda? Would you be offended if your Fox News came through clear as day but your CNN or MSNBC channels were on a 15 minute delay and came through with poor reception? Do you not believe that it is your choice which station to tune into, and that it should be the responsibility of the cable provider to do nothing to impede your ability to successfully tune into an acceptable broadcast of which ever station to which you have subscribed? The same goes for internet service providers. The argument regarding whether internet service providers have the choice of what content to make readily available is up to interpretation, which is why we must take action as soon as possible so that the rights of internet subscribers are not harmed.

Introducing regulation for the internet service provider industry is no different than current regulation in other economic industries that are in place to prevent unethical business practices. Take the most obvious, for example: minimum wage. Think of employees as consumers, only instead of exchanging their money for a company's services, they are exchanging their services for the company's money. Minimum wage is there so that companies rightly repay their employees with money in exchange for said employees' money. There should be regulation in place to make sure that internet service providers rightly replay their subscribers with acceptable service in exchange for said subscribers' money. This kind of regulation is already in place in other industries, and therefore should provide as precedent for writing regulation for the internet service provider industry.

If the available internet content collection was at the whim of public internet service providers, citizens' ability to express themselves via the first amendment would be seriously harmed. We cannot let this happen, and appropriate regulations need to be put in place to make sure that this does not happen.