

I don't believe that money is speech but have repeatedly seen that money motivates dishonest speech, much of it uttered by paid experts. This money-motivated dishonesty is a recurring problem regarding many issues, including Net Neutrality. We pay Internet service providers to move data from point to point. We don't pay them to steer us to selected websites (by speeding up access times) or to discourage us from using other sites (by slowing down or blocking access). Nor do we pay them to decide what applications we can use over the Internet. I should be free to use Skype even if it competes with the phone company's telephone services. Giving Internet users this unimpeded choice of content and applications is the essence of Net Neutrality and it has inspired unceasing innovation over the Internet. Congress is under pressure though from big cable and telecom companies to let them carve up the Internet so that it would become like cable TV, with tiered plans and limited menus of content that they would dictate. Phone companies should not be allowed to dictate how we use the Internet. The F.C.C. and Congress must stop ISP discrimination and take steps to mandate increased competition which Congress intended in the 1996n Telecommunications Act.