

Open and universal access to communications technologies like broadband are essential for all Americans to be able to communicate especially in cases of emergency. That being said basic telephone access is still necessary and will remain so in the foreseeable future for Americans whose home alarm systems require a phone connection to notify the alarm company in a fire, police or medical emergency. Businesses with alarm systems might also need a phone connection unless they have an alarm system that uses the Internet. Universal service mandates requiring telecom companies to provide universal service even in low-income and rural areas whether its for basic home telephone service or now broadband are necessary for the country's economy and for people to communicate. If freed of universal service requirements so called unprofitable customers would never be able to communicate. The Open Internet also enables political activists to connect with campaigns and do social media outreach. Unfortunately, today's Republican Party is obsessed with privatization and wants to privatize nearly everything from social programs like Social Security and Medicare (part of FDR's New Deal and LBJ's Great Society) to the U.S. Postal Service which is chartered under the U.S. Constitution to provide a universal mail service to all Americans and even public education. They seem to want the future electorate (kids are the future) to be uneducated and uninformed and to keep most Americans poor and uneducated and unable to advance economically and to enrich a few giant corporations. In some states this is already happening as they cut funding for public education in state budgets and cut taxes for the wealthy at the same time. Those who can afford private school tuition their kids will be educated but everyone else could be left behind.

Similarly, they seem to be okay with media consolidation and it is a problem. No more media consolidation its time for real media reform.