

Dear FCC,

My name is Sabrina Peña Young and I live in Buffalo, NY.

As a professional composer and educator, I depend on the open internet for both business purposes and for educating my students. TV, radio, and even the newspapers are closed to those that do not fit what demographics the gatekeepers in our country decide is what the majority of Americans want. As a Hispanic voter who cares about her community, it is clear that the only forum that allows true open conversation that is not biased and corporate driven is the Internet. The press as we know it is a joke, and the freedom on the Internet today allows everyday Americans to make a difference, speak their voice, share diverse opinions, and engage in the economy without having to bow to corporate and political masters.

The Internet provides a safe and legal way to express those opinions that are the right of every American. Without such a resort for personal opinion, without the freedom of the internet, the ability to use technology to better ourselves, engage in conversation, and actively work and collaborate online, we may be setting our country both for further economic downturn as people lose the means to work in the rapidly growing online marketplace and political turmoil as frustrated Americans see even more censorship of their beliefs and limits to their commercial endeavors. We will see our entrepreneurs look elsewhere and America falling further behind international labor that does not have to succumb to pointless fees and corporate will.

Our country is ripe for expression today, and the Internet is the safeguard that allows Americans this freedom when TV, newspapers, publishing houses, and the radio are little more than corporate puppets.

Net neutrality, the principle that Internet service providers (ISPs) treat all data that travels over their networks equally, is important to me because without it ISPs could have too much power to determine my Internet experience by providing better access to some services but not others. A pay-to-play Internet worries me because new, innovative services that can't afford expensive fees for better service will be less likely to succeed.

Thank you for your time. I know it is valuable.

Sincerely,
Sabrina Peña Young
Award-winning Composer and Media Artist