

## Net Neutrality Talking Points

(May 31, 2018)

*(use the messages that are most persuasive to your member of Congress)*

- Net neutrality is the basic principle that your internet provider should treat all information the same. This is what has made the internet such a powerful tool for political organizing, education, and business.
- Net neutrality rules ensure everyone online has equal opportunity to carry out essential activities such as furthering education, enrolling in health care, and applying for jobs.
- Net neutrality is particularly crucial to communities of color because it allows people to bypass traditional media gatekeepers and tell their own stories online, challenging mainstream media narratives and dangerous stereotypes.
- The FCC has repealed net neutrality, which means internet providers, like Comcast, Verizon, and AT&T, can control which websites or applications their customers are able to access, or charge customers more to visit specific sites.
- Without net neutrality, there are:
  - No rules preventing blocking of website, services, or content online
  - No rules preventing throttling or slowing down of website or services online
  - No rules preventing paid prioritization where broadband providers give preferential treatment to some websites and services over others
- The FCC's net neutrality repeal also removed the FCC as the authority over protecting consumers over broadband, by reclassifying broadband from a Title II common carrier service to a Title I information service. This takes the FCC out of the business of basic protections with ISPs from privacy, to price gouging, to digital redlining, and many other harms.
- In the absence of net neutrality, companies may be required to pay ISPs for priority access to ISPs' customers. Many startups cannot afford to pay for more reliable access to their websites. This could deter innovation for startups that cannot afford a fast lane and cannot compete without one.
- Online service providers will likely pass their increased costs of doing business onto their customers, who will ultimately bear the increased costs of accessing the internet.
- Without net neutrality rules ISPs will be able to control which websites or applications their customers can access or charge consumers more to visit particular sites. Companies could even shut down free speech and mobilization online.
- Just as prices for cable increased when cable was deregulated, prices for broadband internet are likely to increase when the FCC stops regulating broadband.
- **Congressman Mike Doyle is organizing a discharge petition to bring his Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution to restore net neutrality to a vote in the House of Representatives. The CRA has already passed the Senate by bipartisan vote. Please sign the discharge petition to bring the CRA to a vote in the House of Representatives and then to vote for the CRA to restore net neutrality.**