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Persuasive Speech

Raise your hand if you have used the internet at least once today. Pretty much everyone which makes sense because the internet has become such a large part of our lives. We use it to communicate with others, read the news, and research information. We use it for banking, shopping, games, music, and school. It has become a necessity in our lives. Because of this, it is important that everyone knows about the decision on net neutrality that is taking place next week by the FCC.

Net neutrality was first implemented in 2015 by the FCC. To understand what this means, imagine the internet is a highway. The speed limit on the highway is 70 mph. You want to use this highway to drive across the country to Los Angeles. When you go up to the toll booth, they ask you where you are driving to. You tell them that you are going to Los Angeles and the worker tells you, “Sorry the speed limit for you is 50 mph unless you pay an extra $20 fee.” You think, “Well that’s not fair. All the people going to New York get to drive 70 mph for only $5. Now, imagine the highway is the internet, the location is a website, and the toll booth is your internet service provider(ISP). This is what could happen if net neutrality is removed by the FCC. Net neutrality makes it illegal for ISPs to slow down or block certain websites.

With this, the FCC decision presents a huge threat to the internet. The internet has become a very open place that is available for everyone to use. Losing net neutrality would cause the internet to become a closed network in which the ISPs call all the shots. Since the internet has become such a large part of our lives and is used by 257 million Americans as a place where free speech is allowed, a decision against net neutrality would be an infringement against our first amendment rights. The people shouldn’t have to pay for their right to free speech. Some people argue that competition between ISPs would cause them to remove fees so removing net neutrality wouldn’t cause any harm. This may be true, but over 55 million Americans live in areas where there is only one service provider so there wouldn’t be any competition. These Americans also have a right to free speech, so we must preserve net neutrality for everyone. The removal of net neutrality would also cause a limit of innovation on the internet. It is likely that many of the larger companies on the internet like Google, Netflix, and Amazon would pay the ISPs to slow down the traffic of their competitors. Small businesses wouldn’t be able to afford this, so they would lose a lot of business online. This would allow big business to thrive and small business to fail. The ability to create new ideas and products online would be much more difficult without net neutrality. Because of these reasons, we must try to preserve net neutrality.

On December 14, the chairman and the four commissioners that run the FCC will make their final decision. It is likely that they will decide against net neutrality. A decision of this importance should not be made by 5 people that were appointed by the president. We must urge Congress to take control of this decision and save net neutrality for the American people. So, please call your congressman, sign online petitions, and spread the word of the importance of net neutrality. We need to be heard by Congress so that the right decision can be made. Join the fight to preserve the internet which has become such an important part of our lives.