

# Keep the Internet Free and Open in Illinois

# Vote YES on HB 4819

Sponsors: Williams - Andrade - Cassidy - Guzzardi - Fine - Carroll - Yingling - Stuart - Madigan - Conroy - Currie - Gabel - Mussman - Smith - Gordon-Booth - Evans - Willis - Sente - Moeller - Harper - Stratton - Kifowit - C. Mitchell - K. Burke - Connor - Moylan - Halpin - D. Burke - Costello - Phelps-Finnie - Ammons - Manley - Mah

## HB 4819 DOES 2 THINGS:

1. Requires all internet service providers (ISPs) who want to contract with the State of Illinois to commit to honoring net neutrality principles for all customers in Illinois.

What does that mean for ISPs?

*Don't block or slow down content you don't like, and don't speed up or favor content you do like (or are paid to like). Be fair in how you treat data.*

2. Requires all ISPs to disclose – openly and publicly – any practices and commercial terms relating to blocking, paid prioritization, or throttling.

## THE FCC ROLLED BACK NET NEUTRALITY RULES UNDER THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

**WHY WE NEED HB 4819: Eliminating net neutrality does one thing: it allows those who provide internet access to engage in content-based discrimination.**

### Without Net Neutrality:

- Large cable and internet providers can regulate how information moves around the internet – for their profit.
- Information can be allowed to move faster or slower, sites can easily load or be blocked, and some information can be given preference based on money or ideology.
- All ISPs now have a green light to implement severe data caps; impose additional charges for additional privacy levels; and throttle certain types of traffic. This hurts Illinois residents who have come to see the internet as a source of information where *all information is available equally*.

ISP companies are claiming that all this is unnecessary because they fully support net neutrality and intend to honor its principals despite the FCC's rollback. The TRUTH is that *no industry spends millions of dollars lobbying to eliminate regulations just so they can adhere to them voluntarily*.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OTHER STATES

**33 States introduced or are preparing to introduce legislation that varies in scope, and is intended to **Preserve Net Neutrality****

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 23 States: AGs took action</li><li>• 5 States: Governors signed Executive Orders establishing statewide Net Neutrality (Montana, New York, New Jersey, Hawaii, and Vermont)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 27 States Introduced Bills: <b>WA (signed)</b>; CA; CT; DC; GA; IA; IL; MA; MD; MO; NE; NJ; NY; OH; <b>OR (signed)</b>; PA; PR; RI; SC; TN; <b>VT (signed)</b>; VA; AK; ID; KS; OK; WV</li><li>• 5 States Will Likely Introduce Bills Soon: CO; WI; ME; IN; NC; SD</li></ul> |
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**With HB 4819 on the floor, there is a simple question for legislators: DO YOU STAND WITH **POWERFUL, CORPORATE INTERESTS** OR THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO ACCESS INFORMATION**

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**ACLU** Illinois

## SUPPORT FOR HB 4819 – A FAIR AND OPEN INTERNET FOR ALL

Supporting Organizations and Entities	December Poll by the University of Maryland’s Program for Public Consultation
<p style="text-align: center;">Illinois Attorney General’s Office Office of the President – Cook County Government ACLU of Illinois AFL-CIO Better Government Association (BGA) Chi Hack Night Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights (CCDBR) Citizens Utility Board (CUB) Illinois Library Association Illinois PIRG Indivisible Chicago Indivisible Illinois Indivisible NLC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Supporters of Preserving The Net Neutrality Rules the FCC Abandoned in December</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Americans: 83%</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Republicans: 75%</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Democrats: 89%</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Independents: 86%</p>

**EXAMPLES OF ABUSE: In the absence of net neutrality in the United States and elsewhere, we have seen content slowed and blocked based upon the political views and business interests of ISP companies.**

- In 2012, AT&T blocked customers from using Apple FaceTime unless they switched to more expensive data plans. FCC cited the FaceTime block in 2015 as part of the reason for imposing stronger rules on both home and mobile broadband providers. AT&T also blocked Google Hangouts on Android phones.
- AT&T censored a live Pearl Jam concert stream in response to criticisms of President George W. Bush by the band’s lead singer, Eddie Vedder.
- Verizon blocked text messages from the pro-choice advocacy group NARAL because Verizon deemed them to be “controversial”.
- Telus, a Canadian Telecom company, blocked the website of a union with which it was engaged in a labor dispute.
- AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon all blocked mobile wallet applications, like Google Wallet, that competed with their own mobile wallet application.
- AT&T: forced Apple to block Skype and other VoIP on the iPhone (2007-2009).
- January 2017: FCC determined that AT&T was engaging in discriminatory, anti-competitive practices by “zero-rating” its own DIRECTV content while simultaneously charging its competitors unfavorable rates to get the same treatment – in other words, giving away its own video programming for free in order to drive customers to subscribe to DIRECTV, while stifling any competing video streaming services.

### WHAT MAY HAPPEN WITHOUT NET NEUTRALITY?

People may not be able to afford the same level of access that they have today: one family can afford a home internet package that allows almost limitless access to content – what everyone has today – and another has a barebones connection.

Subtle blocking and throttling by ISPs in ways that can potentially chill free speech in dangerous and destructive ways: a smaller online forum is blocked or throttled, forcing people to use a different, favored forum where views more favorable to an ISP (or a paying partner) becomes the only option.