

SUPPORT

HB 4819 - Restore Net Neutrality in Illinois

Keep the Internet Open

Sponsors: Williams

- ✓ Requires all internet service providers (ISPs) who do business with Illinois state agencies and organizations to commit to honoring net neutrality principles for all customers in Illinois
- ✓ Requires all ISPs to disclose any practices and commercial terms relating to blocking, paid prioritization, or throttling

When we send or receive data over the internet, we expect internet service providers (ISPs) to transfer that data from one end of the network to the other without analyzing or manipulating that data, or slowing down the speed at which the data is transferred. That is what net neutrality is all about, and until recently was the law of the land.

Net neutrality requires ISPs to treat online data equally by not discriminating based on user or content. It is essential to the free, open internet that we know and love, and guarantees an internet that enables and protects free speech. Without equal access to the internet, we lose our rights to be heard and to hear others.

The FCC under Trump has moved to dismantle net neutrality, and earlier this year executed an order repealing net neutrality and freeing ISPs to slow down your internet, prioritize websites and services that pay to be faster, and block content they do not want their customers to see. The **Broadband Procurement and Disclosure Act** would require ISPs in Illinois to honor net neutrality for all citizens of the state, and to be transparent about any billing practices that violate net neutrality principles.

Net neutrality is a consumer issue, but it is also one of the foremost free speech issues of our time. In this day and age, it is pretty much impossible to get through life without using the internet — which is why it's essential that our free speech rights are protected both on- and offline. After all, freedom of expression isn't worth much if the forums where people actually make use of it are not themselves free. That is why the ACLU has long supported FCC actions that promote competition and innovation in telecommunications.

AN OPEN INTERNET HAS
NEVER BEEN MORE
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Net Neutrality – Myths and Facts

Myth: Net Neutrality is a solution in search of a problem.

Fact: There are numerous examples of network providers engaging in content or user discrimination that will only grow without net neutrality.

Myth: Even without net neutrality, ISPs cannot block websites or charge more based on what I'm doing on the internet.

Fact: Without net neutrality, ISPs are free to block content to their customers under the terms and conditions of customer and user agreements, and are no longer required to charge customers fairly and equally, regardless of which websites they visited or what content they watched.

Myth: Net neutrality has nothing to do with civil liberties issues.

Fact: Many people will not be able to afford the same level of internet access in a world without net neutrality. People in underserved communities will have less and poorer access to the internet and crucial information about jobs, education, and resources, resulting in greater inequality.