

rules for websites—Google, Facebook. Why should there be different rules? Well, every person out there knows what the difference between Google and the broadband provider is. Google is one app; it is not thousands of apps. So the whole argument is fallacious from the get-go. When you use Google, you understand what your relationship is with Google. When you use ESPN.com, you know what the relationship is with ESPN.com. But when you are using every service, now you are talking about the broadband companies. They are the only ones that know everything about you, what you are doing online, all day long, every single day. That is under the jurisdiction of the Federal Communications Commission, following along their supervision of the telephone industry, which they have had rules on the books to ensure that information can't be sold without your permission.

Why is this so important? It is important because in the 21st century, having broadband service is like having oxygen in your lungs. Everyone uses it. Everyone is using it all day long. Everyone's information is in the hands of these companies. People might as well stop breathing as to disconnect from their broadband provider. That is why we need strong rules—not self-regulation—to prevent the internet service providers from mining and selling our data without consent.

This is, for me, a historic fight to defend America's fundamental right to privacy. The broadband industry will say that if we don't take these rules off the books, subscribers will be confused. There will be one set of standards for the individual website and another set of standards for the entire broadband internet service provider industry. Frankly, consumers are only more confused about why we aren't doing more to tackle these important privacy issues. Consumers are confused about why we are spending time on the Senate floor taking away privacy protections. Consumers are confused about why we would allow broadband companies to sell their sensitive information

to banks, to insurance companies, to advertisers, to anyone else willing to pay top dollar for your personal information without your consent. They are confused about why we would rescind the rules ensuring broadband providers adhere to the best data security practices protecting subscribers' sensitive information from breaches and unauthorized use, when we know there are unauthorized hacks every single day. We are in a historic fight to defend America's fundamental right to privacy online, a fight to allow consumers, innovators, entrepreneurs, the millions of Americans all across this country who rely upon the internet to control their own information.

Instead of protecting our healthcare, instead of protecting our environment and protecting our privacy, Republicans want to give it all away to their friends and allies and big corporations. Those corporations don't care about consumer rights. They have one concern, and one concern only, and that is their bottom line. That is making money.

The cornerstone of our country is capitalism with a conscience—with a conscience. Massachusetts' unemployment rate is 3.2 percent. We are proud of that. We are a capitalist State. Massachusetts is proud to have one of the lowest unemployment rates in our country. We believe in capitalism, but we also believe we can have capitalism with a conscience. In this instance, it means the protection of the privacy of people online, from having that family's sacred, secret information compromised for a profit, with no ability—no ability, no right, none—for a family to say no. Take the broadband service or leave it. If you take it, you have no privacy.

The only people in this country who can protect those families are 100 Senators who will be voting tomorrow. I ask the Republican Senators, why would they strip this privacy protection from ordinary families? Why would they deny the right? All I can say is, overnight, all we can really say is we tried. We really tried to protect

the privacy of Americans. That vote tomorrow will represent that show-down moment.

If we lose, please, out of good conscience, Republicans, just stop all this public concern about the compromise, the privacy, the President, the national security apparatus in our country. Believe me, the ordinary American is going to be made far more vulnerable tomorrow than anything any Russian entity is ever going to do. It is going to be what we did to ourselves, what we allowed to happen to our own citizens at the hands of their own United States Senate that is going to be a far greater threat to every ordinary family in our country.

I urge a "no" vote from my fellow colleagues on the Senate floor tomorrow. This goes right to the heart of whether we understand technology, we understand the responsibility we have for the American people, to protect them from the worst aspects of it.

There is a Dickensian quality to the internet: It is the best of technologies, and it is the worst of technologies, simultaneously. This technology can enable. It can ennoble. We want that to be extracted from the internet. But it can also degrade. It can also debase. It is the job of the U.S. Senate to protect the American people from that aspect of the internet. Tomorrow, if the Republicans have their way, they will remove the protections of the privacy of Americans and allow for an expansion of the degrading and the debasing of the privacy that ordinary Americans are entitled to in our country.

I thank the Presiding Officer for giving me the opportunity to be here.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:07 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 23, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.