

country—care very deeply about this issue. A little while ago, in advance of the FCC's vote, on the Internet I asked people in Vermont and throughout the country to share their views with me, to write to me and tell me what they thought about the attempt to do away with net neutrality, and I was blown away by the response we received. More than 19,000 people have submitted comments to my office so far, and what they are saying in statement after statement after statement is that the FCC has to defend net neutrality.

I think these 19,000 people represent the vast majority of the people in this country who understand how important net neutrality is, and I want to take this opportunity and a very few moments to share some of the comments I received through my Web site.

Anthony Drake of Moreno Valley, CA, said:

Net neutrality is vital for a free and open internet, and the economic advantages that it has brought our nation and the world. Please work to reclassify ISPs as common carriers under Title II of the Communications Act.

Stamford, VT, resident Roy Gibson concurred, telling the FCC that Internet providers "should be treated like utilities." I agree with Roy Gibson.

Reg Jones of Bennington, VT, said President Obama must uphold his campaign promise to enforce net neutrality. He further said:

Net neutrality should be mandated as President Obama promised. Any attempt to allow differential speeds and access to the Internet should be squashed and those who propose it should be replaced by people who represent all of the citizens of this country. Internet access should be for the good of all, not for the select few who already have too much power and more money than they need.

William LaFrana of Versailles, KY, said:

Everyone should have equal access to the Internet. The Internet was developed with taxpayer funding, and should not be held hostage to corporate piracy.

Patricia Moriarty from Harwich Point, MA, wrote:

The Internet is the only place where we truly have freedom of speech and the ability to freely exchange new ideas around the world. Leave the Internet OPEN.

President Obama himself has long been on record supporting net neutrality. In 2007, then-Presidential candidate Obama said:

What you've been seeing is some lobbying that says that the servers and the various portals through which you're getting information over the Internet should be able to be gatekeepers and to charge differential rates to different Web sites . . . so you can get much better quality from the Fox News site and you'd be getting rotten service from the mom and pop sites. . . . And that I think destroys one of the best things about the Internet—which is that there is this incredible equality there.

That is what Barack Obama said when he was campaigning for the Presidency. Barack Obama was right when he said that, and I would very strongly urge the President to stand for what he

said when he was campaigning for President and defend net neutrality.

I understand the FCC is an independent body, but the American people have spoken with a clear and unified voice that they want to maintain net neutrality. What is so frustrating for the American people is to elect a candidate—in this case President Obama—who campaigned on an issue and now see many of the FCC members he appointed moving in a different direction. It is simply not enough for the President to sit on the sidelines on this issue. We need him to speak out for net neutrality, as he did when he campaigned for President.

Let me conclude by simply saying the Commission will soon consider whether to reclassify the Internet as a so-called common carrier. Under this distinction, the Internet would be treated like other utilities. Being classified as a common carrier will mean Internet service providers must provide the same service to everyone, without discrimination. This is the only path forward to maintain an open forum, free of discrimination.

Over the next few months the public will have an opportunity to weigh in on this proposal by the FCC. Each of us—and I hope every Member of Congress—should be concerned about this issue. I encourage you to be vocal. If people want to write to my office—sanders.senate.gov—we already have 19,000 people commenting and we welcome even more. I hope the American people rally around this issue of net neutrality and that we defeat any proposal to do away with that.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

Mr. NELSON. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. NELSON and Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of (S. 2361) are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank the Presiding Officer.

(The remarks of Mr. LEVIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 2360 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT JESSE WILLIAMS

Mr. DONNELLY. In recognition of Memorial Day, I would like to take a moment today to honor three Hoosier

servicemembers we lost in the last year.

We remember Army SSG Jesse Williams of Elkhart, who was killed in action after his Black Hawk helicopter crashed in Zabul Province, Afghanistan, on December 17, 2013.

Staff Sergeant Williams attended Elkhart Central High School and completed basic training in 2006. He was deployed three times—once to Iraq in 2007 and twice to Afghanistan in 2010 and 2013. Staff Sergeant Williams is survived by his daughter, parents, grandparents, and siblings. His family accepted the Purple Heart on his behalf last month.

TECHNICAL SERGEANT DALE MATHEWS

We remember Air Force TSgt Dale Mathews from Rolling Prairie, IN, who died in a plane crash during a training exercise in England on January 7 of this year.

Technical Sergeant Mathews graduated from New Prairie High School in 1994. He served tours of duty in both Iraq and Afghanistan. His service in the Air Force centered on flying rescue missions and taking care of others. After serving almost 20 years, he was involved in the rescue of nearly 300 people.

Technical Sergeant Mathews is survived by his wife, his son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, and his parents and grandparents.

STAFF SERGEANT RANDALL LANE

We remember Army SSG Randall Lane of Indianapolis.

Staff Sergeant Lane passed away from a noncombat-related illness in Afghanistan on September 13, 2013. Staff Sergeant Lane served his country proudly in the Marines and in the Indiana Army National Guard for over 20 years. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, stepson, parents, brothers and sister, and his grandmother.

These men are all true heroes. They served their country with distinction. They made their family, friends, and all the people of Indiana and America proud. I send my continued thoughts and prayers to their families.

Like these three men, the United States has a long history of selfless warriors—men and women choosing to serve not because of the glory it brings to them but because of the freedom and safety it brings to others. When one of them makes the ultimate sacrifice by giving their life for ours, it is important that we pause and remember the true price of freedom.

I was proud to see my fellow Hoosiers come together in reflection and remembrance when we lost these three American sons, and I ask that we do the same this Memorial Day.

May God bless the United States of America.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, this week President Obama told a group of campaign donors that people who still