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May 15, 2018

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the three million members of the National Education Association (NEA) and the 50 million students they serve, we strongly urge you to VOTE YES on S.J. Res. 52, the Congressional Review Act resolution to protect net neutrality by nullifying the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) roll back of net neutrality rules scheduled for a vote this week. Votes associated with this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 115th Congress.

The NEA has a long history of championing equitable and robust access to the internet by advocating for the FCC's E-rate Program – which has been critical to not only connecting nearly 100 percent of schools to the internet, but also maintaining ongoing broadband connectivity. The E-rate program ensures that all students have *equitable access* to sufficient high-speed broadband to access the internet. Net Neutrality helps ensure students have *equal access* to content on the web at equivalent speeds.

The FCC's 2015 Open Internet Order implemented net neutrality rules. The FCC's repeal of those rules; slated to take effect on June 11, 2018, and may result in higher prices for consumers and slower internet traffic. The NEA believes that treating all web traffic equally is paramount to ensuring equal access to information. Our schools serve both as customers procuring internet access and as critical providers of internet access to students. Nullifying net neutrality injects significant uncertainty for schools in budgeting, as they may be beholden to potential rising costs to ensure sufficient access to internet content. In today's 21st century teaching and learning environment, providing sufficient access to internet content is not a luxury – it is a necessity.

The NEA also strongly believes that net neutrality is paramount to protecting the free and open internet. From the potential chilling of first amendment free speech rights to inequitable limitations on access, the repeal of net neutrality raises several significant concerns for public education for our students, educators, schools, and higher education institutions. The internet serves as an open platform for all our educators and the students in their classrooms – no matter their geographic locale or socio-economic status – to exchange information and ideas, create content, engage in civic and intellectual discourse, conduct research, and enhance teaching and learning in our schools and communities across the country.

We strongly urge you to VOTE Yes on S.J. Res 52, to protect net neutrality from the FCC's nullification. Access to the internet continues to serve as a great equalizer for students – no

matter their zip code – and net neutrality is key to its continued transformative power in our classrooms and our in our students’ lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Egan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association