STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2018-1001

TITLE: Resolution Sharing the Importance of Political Awareness in relevance to the Net Neutrality Act

AUTHOR (S): Senator Katelyn Hernandez and Senator Dylan Santalo

SPONSOR (S): Senator Angel Zavala, Senate President Ian Green, Senator Maria Perez, Senator Clay Hurdle

WHEREAS, in 1934, Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Federal Communications Commission[i] via the Communications Act, with Title II outlining that all traffic on networks designated as common carriers must be treated equally[ii]; and,

WHEREAS, later in the 1980’s, arguments began to arise regarding requirements of telecommunications to be considered public, especially after the late 1990’s when the internet became a common good in households and society[iii]; and,

WHEREAS, in 2010 the FCC issued an “Open Internet Order”, which states that internet service providers must act transparently and not block or slow down content for consumers; this was the first step taken to reach net neutrality[iv]; and,

WHEREAS, in 2015 the FCC classified broadband internet service as a Title II communication service, which gave the FCC the authority to establish net neutrality[v]; and,

WHEREAS, on December 14th, 2017 the United States Congress passed a bill which ceased net neutrality protections, allowed the Federal Communications Commission to permit internet providers to legally control the speed of internet through their network and dismantled the FCC regulations established in 2015[vi]; and,

WHEREAS, prior to the implementation of the net neutrality verdict, the Judicial Branch has gotten involved in order to determine the legality of the removal of net
neutrality, as net neutrality was implemented in order to expand opportunity to utilize the First Amendment[vii]; and,

WHEREAS, this action can change the method that University of Florida students utilize streaming throughout their academic endeavors[viii]; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages students to educate themselves more on the issue and to contact their congressperson about their beliefs and issues on the matter.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate takes the position that civic activism is an important role for all students to fulfill.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Parrott, Director of Student Activities and Involvement Nancy Chrystal-Green & Dean of Students Dr. White

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[iii] https://www.nap.edu/read/11711/chapter/4
[iv] Net Neutrality is the principle that Internet service providers should enable access to all content and applications regardless of the source, and without favoring or blocking particular products or websites