

THREE THINGS: TAKE ACTION ON TAX BILL, NET NEUTRALITY, AND A COURTROOM VIRGIN

There's a lot of crappy stuff going on, but three things need your urgent attention and action: Tax cuts for wealthy, net neutrality, and an unqualified federal judicial appointment.

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So-called Tax Reform Legislation

Tax cuts for people who don't need them and won't even feel them, paid for by the people who can least afford them – it's a recipe for disaster. If Putin wanted to damage our economy he couldn't have done a better job in one go. I could rant all day about the stupidity required to believe trickle-down or supply-side economics work, but this wealthy dude does a succinct job. As he says it's a trickle-down lie; this bill is simply a wealth transfer from the lower deciles to the upper deciles.

You can also bone up by reading this Forbes article, and this Forbes article, and hello, another Forbes article.

This is a nightmare in the making which will tank our economy and literally threaten American lives by reducing access to healthcare. The only real driver behind this bill is extortion – the GOP's biggest donors have threatened to shut their wallets if they don't get their tax cuts, and GOP members of Congress are too fucking weak to tell them to pound sand.

Go ahead, selfish billionaires, primary GOP incumbents. You think you can rustle up more sycophantic (and pedophilic) candidates like Roy Moore and still retain control of the House and Senate in 2018, even if you suppress the vote? Hah.

More than half this country struggles to scrape up enough cash to pay for an emergency, like a car repair or a broken appliance, and the GOP thinks increasing their taxes and undermining their health care will magically make the economy better?

And now the kicker: Alaska's Senator Murkowski, who has been a champion for health care, just agreed to support the repeal of the individual mandate included in this tax bill. The stupid, it burns. Or perhaps it's some ill-considered kickback burning its way through Murkowski's cred.

Here's a script for your use, provided by the ever-helpful @celeste_pewter. Call Congress' switchboard at (202) 221-3121 or look for your senators' closest in-state office and leave a message there – all senators are home this week.

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FCC Chair Ajit Pai's Blowjob for ISPs

It's really far more than a blowjob and it's definitely obscene. Allowing ISPs to discriminate against bits in the pipe by throttling, blocking, or additional charges to further their agenda is absolutely unacceptable. There's far too much at risk, beginning with the end of moderately priced internet. Some industries will be damaged – filmmakers, for example, already have problems with releasing films across the U.S. over the internet, as users do not have the same quality of network. Streaming providers like Netflix will also experience problems; angry users will blame them for poor service, when it may be the ISP throttling them. Marketplace's Molly Wood does a pretty good job reviewing the problems with Pai's proposed changes and the challenges with the existing regulatory framework.

Let's be frank: your porn will be affected, too, as removing net neutrality means ISPs can audit the content you request and block/throttle/demand more to release it, or strong arm you into using their brand of porn

using a combination of price differentiation and delivery constraints.

And then there's the issue of Pai's handling of comments on this change, which New York's AG Eric Schneiderman has been investigating – little cooperation with Schneiderman to date and a decision made based on a manipulated feedback process – all suggest the FCC is taking illegitimate action.

So, so shady. Ajit Pai should never have been approved by this Congress as FCC chair; Congress needs to reign in his overreach by legislating net neutrality. Could the existing FCC regulations be improved? Sure, but Pai's proposal does nothing of the sort – Congress should address this.

ACLU's prepared a short-and-sweet script for you use. Use the ACLU's call routing through their website, or call Congress' switchboard at(202) 221-3121.

@Celeste_pewter offers more detailed script with a more thorough ask at this link.

Also via miracle worker @celeste_pewter, here's a script for writing to Ajit Pai at FCC. Please personalize your message – don't just cut-and-paste. Take a stand.

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Incredibly Wretched Judicial Nominee Talley

What. The. Fuck? I can't even begin to explain how awful a nominee Brett Talley is; he should never have been allowed to get this far. Read up on their hideousness here. How can the Senate Judiciary Committee think for a moment that ghost-hunting, White-House-lawyer-married, ABA-'unqualified', courtroom-virgin Talley, is well qualified for a lifetime appointment? This is a complete rejection of the Senate's power to advise and consent.

Call your senators at (202) 221-3121 or their home state offices and ask them to vote NO on Talley, deny their consent. We can and must do

better with these lifetime appointments. Need a script? Once again, Celeste is on top of it.

In my opinion, the Senate should refuse to approve any more judiciary nominees before the 2018 election. Talley is the latest of four Trump nominees the ABA found 'unqualified'. If somebody is drafting articles of impeachment, these nominees should be cited as an example of Trump's failure to faithfully execute this country's laws.

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There's so much more that's wrong, like the lack of funding and inadequate labor for Puerto Rico and California wildfire recovery, Puerto Rico's Medicaid funding, another horribly qualified nominee for U.S. Census, attacks on the DREAM/DACA/SECURE Acts, or the lapse of CHIP putting the health of NINE MILLION AMERICAN CHILDREN at risk. But the three issues listed above are the ones which will have the greatest affect on the largest number of Americans.

If you have Republican legislators, your calls are even more important, though Democratic and Independent legislators do need to hear from you so they can validate their resistance. Call your elected representatives pronto – don't take this crap without a fight. Get out in front of these turkeys.

This is an open thread. Bring your comments here which are off topic in other threads, thanks.