

# Net Neutrality's "Slow and Insidious" Death Begins. Urgent Demands for U.S. Congress to Act

"Momentum is on our side, but time isn't. Members of Congress need to know that there will be a price to pay for being on the wrong side of internet history."

By [Jake Johnson](#)

Global Research, April 24, 2018

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#), [Media Disinformation](#)

*Today is the day that net neutrality's "[slow and insidious](#)" death at the hands of the Republican-controlled FCC [officially begins](#), and Congress is facing urgent pressure to save the open internet before it's too late.*

With Monday marking 60 days after the FCC's net neutrality repeal [entered the Federal Register](#), parts of the GOP-crafted plan—spearheaded by agency chair and former Verizon lawyer Ajit Pai—will now slowly begin taking effect, while some [still need to be approved](#) by the Office of Management and Budget.

Net neutrality backers in Congress, meanwhile, are still struggling to compile enough votes to repeal Pai's new rules, despite the fact that they are [deeply unpopular](#) among the American public.

The Senate needs just [one more vote](#) to pass a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution to restore net neutrality protections before it can move to the House, where it would face an uphill battle. An official vote in the Senate has yet to be scheduled, but could come in the next few weeks.

In a recent Twitter thread, the advocacy group Fight for the Future warned against sensationalistic headlines proclaiming that net neutrality will immediately be gone on Monday, noting that large telecom companies will ensure that the open internet's death is as quiet and subtle as possible in order to minimize public backlash.

"The ISPs aren't going to immediately start blocking content or rolling out paid prioritization scams. They know Congress and the public are watching them," the group noted. "And that's the worst part. What will happen is over time ISP scams and abuses will become more commonplace and more accepted. They'll roll out new schemes that appear good on their face but undermine the free market of ideas by allowing ISPs to pick winners and losers."

The most important thing for EVERYONE to understand is that nothing catastrophic or dramatic is going to happen immediately when the FCC rules go into effect. Telecom shills will immediately start saying "See? The sky didn't fall, we never needed [#NetNeutrality](#)." They're lying.

— Fight for the Future (@fightforthefttr) [April 19, 2018](#)

The Senate will vote in a matter of weeks on a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution to block the FCC's repeal. Now is the moment to get engaged.

Everyone: take action at <https://t.co/xSJHbLq2Wn>

Small businesses: sign this letter <https://t.co/fto5TanXbn>

Retweet & spread!

— Fight for the Future (@fightforthefttr) [April 19, 2018](#)

With net neutrality backers in Congress scrambling to rally enough votes to repeal Pai's rules, states like Washington and California are moving ahead with ambitious plans to protect the open internet from telecom throttling and manipulation.

As *Common Dreams* [reported](#) last week, California legislation that has been hailed as the "gold standard" for net neutrality protections has passed out of the Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee, despite a fervent effort by the telecom industry to tank the bill.

While advocacy groups have applauded state efforts to defend the open internet from Pai's FCC, [they have argued](#) that the only way to ensure net neutrality protections nationwide is to restore them at the federal level.

In a recent series of tweets, Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.)—who [introduced](#) the resolution to bring back net neutrality safeguards shortly after the FCC voted to repeal them last December—urged Americans to pressure their lawmakers to act before Pai's plan takes full effect.

With [#OneMoreVote](#) in the Senate, we can vote to reverse [@realDonaldTrump](#)'s attack on the internet. The House can do the same with 218 votes. It currently has 160.

But we won't get those votes unless lawmakers hear from people who care about protecting the future of the internet.

— Ed Markey (@SenMarkey) [April 20, 2018](#)

"Momentum is on our side, but time isn't. Help us save the internet by making your voices heard now," Markey concluded. "Members of Congress need to know that there will be a price to pay for being on the wrong side of internet history."

\*

*first published by Common Dreams. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License*

The original source of this article is Global Research

[\*\*Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page\*\*](#)

[\*\*Become a Member of Global Research\*\*](#)

Articles by: [Jake Johnson](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)