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Plans are underway for the 40th annual American Cancer Society Telethon. Started in 1978, the event is a major fundraiser for the Greater Hazleton Unit of the ACS and also serves as a cancer prevention education tool. The telethon will be held Feb. 24 at WYLN-TV 35 studios, 1057 E. 10th St. (10th and Thompson streets), Hazleton. The telethon will run from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and is dedicated to the memory of founders Henry and Leona Kreisl and **Joseph and Irene Gans**.



Cancer touches everyone in some way and the ACS is here to help. Events such as the telethon raise money to fight cancer locally and help to educate the public about things they can do to prevent and treat cancer. Each day in Pennsylvania, the ACS helps 77 patients

and caregivers find information, provides rides to 104 patients, gives wigs to three patients and provides \$86,000 in research funds. This year's theme is "40 Years of Giving So Many Can Go On Living."

The ACS is working to make more birthdays possible by helping people to get well and stay healthy, by finding cures and by fighting back. Local artists, dancers and musicians donate their time and talent to entertain the viewers during WYLN's live broadcast of the telethon. **Honorary chairs of the telethon are members of the Gans family.**

Money raised goes to support, among other things, many services for cancer patients and their families, including the Cancer Information Center (800-ACS-2345 to speak with trained cancer information specialists), a smoking cessation hotline (800-QUIT-NOW), Look Good ... Feel Better where volunteer beauty professionals teach women how to care for skin and hair during cancer treatments, Reach to Recovery (breast cancer support), Road to Recovery (free transportation to treatments and medical appointments) and I Can Cope (a series of educational classes for patients and their families and friends).

The Hazleton area also has a support group for prostate cancer survivors.

The ACS makes access to these and all of their services extremely easy. One phone call to 570-459-1212 puts patients and family members in touch with staff who can provide educational and emotional support, practical assistance during and after treatment, opportunities to celebrate survivorship and referrals to additional community resources. The ACS has a Cancer Resource Center inside the Cancer Treatment Center at 1701 E. Broad St., Hazleton. Hours there are Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment.

**The telethon will be broadcast live on WYLN on Service Electric Cablevision, Hazleton/Mahanoy City, Service Electric Cable TV & Communications Wilkes-Barre, and Metrocast Berwick/Schuylkill/Poconos on channel 7.** The telethon will also be available over the air on channel

[Will this CIA officer fill the hole left by Leach in Pa.'s 7th District race?](#)

[Pennlive Gov. Wolf wants his nut roll as Eagles head to Super Bowl](#)

9 (Williamsport), channel 35.1 (Hazleton) and channel 47.1 (Berwick). For more information, call 570-459-1212. – *Hazleton Standard-Speaker*

California state lawmakers are angling for another fight with the Trump administration, this time to revive federal net neutrality rules that they say are crucial to a fair, open and free internet. Senate President Pro Tem Kevin De León (D-Los Angeles) has introduced legislation that would task a state agency with establishing new regulations, making it unlawful for broadband companies to block or limit access to internet services in California. Through his own bill, state Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) is working with a coalition of lawmakers and tech advocates to craft new net neutrality rules of their own.

Despite the dueling approaches, the two prominent Democrats have pledged to work together. Their proposals face heavy opposition from the telecom industry. And supporters say neither effort will be enough if the state does not also resuscitate federal rules to protect the privacy of internet customers. “If the idea is, ‘I want people to go wherever they want on the internet in California,’ they won’t do that if they think their information is being monetized and privatized by visiting certain sites,” said Ernesto Falcon, legal counsel for the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

The net neutrality rules, put in place under then-President Obama in February 2015, barred broadband and wireless companies such as AT&T Inc., Charter Communications Inc. and Verizon Communications from selling faster delivery of some data, slowing speeds for certain video streams and other content, and discriminating against legal material online.

The Federal Communications Commission [voted in December to roll those rules back](#), with Republicans calling for an end to the utility-like oversight of internet service providers (ISPs). The decision came months after the federal agency and Congress blocked a separate set of federal privacy regulations from going into effect. Those would have limited companies from selling or permitting access to their customers’ browser history.

[Legislation by De León](#) introduced this month would put the California Public Utilities Commission in charge of creating new net neutrality rules, and give the state’s attorney general the power to enforce them. “We cannot allow the profits and political interests of internet service providers to outweigh the public interest in a free and open internet,” the Senate leader said this month at a news conference in San Jose. “If the Trump administration won’t protect consumers, the state of California will.”

[Wiener’s bill](#) is just a placeholder, since lawmakers plan to craft the details after discussions with supporters and opponents. They expect to require companies to adhere to net neutrality rules as a condition for obtaining state contracts, as part of cable franchise agreements and when broadband wireless communications are attached to utility poles.

Wiener and other members of the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee last week voted to advance De León’s legislation. As they did, they expressed concerns that the historically embattled CPUC might not be able to handle the monumental task of regulating the internet — a huge responsibility for a state agency with already too many responsibilities.

At a hearing on the bill, Sen. Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo), who has worked with Gov. Jerry Brown and other legislators in attempts [to overhaul the agency](#) in recent years, called the CPUC “too big to succeed.” Other witnesses said giving the CPUC that much power could trigger federal legal challenges. The committee testimony also gave a glimpse into the opposition to come: Lobbyists representing industry groups and major wireless companies — including AT&T, T-Mobile and Sprint — argued state net neutrality rules would create an uneven patchwork of laws nationwide.

Bill Levine, a Sacramento-based lobbyist for AT&T, told the committee that bringing back the regulations would create “a collision” in California between the “delay and expense of bureaucracy with the speed of innovation.” The arguments echoed those made by industry lobbyists in 2016 against failed state legislation that would have [vastly regulated the use of drones](#) in California. Similar concerns also helped kill [a bill](#) last year that would have enshrined in state law the FCC’s rolled back internet privacy regulations.

The legislation by Assemblyman Ed Chau (D-Monterey Park) — supported by former FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler and smaller California ISPs — would have required broadband and wireless companies [to get permission from customers](#) before using or selling their browser history. It stalled in the Senate Rules Committee, chaired by De León, amid a behind-the-scenes battle between supporters and tech giants like Google.

De León says he supports the Chau legislation, which will resurface this year. Privacy advocates also are attempting to establish similar rules through [a proposed statewide ballot measure](#). Supporters of net neutrality legislation see the issues inextricably linked. In a letter to the state Senate Energy, Utilities and

Communications committee, Falcon of the Electronic Frontier Foundation argued passing Chau's bill should be the first priority, net neutrality rules the second. "No one state will be able to restore what was lost in December," when the FCC took action, he said. "But there is a lot states can do to move the networks in that direction." – *San Diego Union-Tribune*

Soon after the Federal Communications Commission decided to turn over control of the internet to a handful of huge corporations for their own profits, several state governments acted to preserve their residents' open access. In December the FCC voted to overturn its 2015 rules that had guaranteed what is known as net neutrality. Those rules had ensured equal access to the internet for all users. The new rules will enable big internet service providers to manipulate access, speed and content according to their own business priorities.

A group of 22 attorneys general, including Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania and led by Eric Schneiderman of New York, sued in federal court Wednesday to overturn the FCC decision. The others represent California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and the District of Columbia.

Meanwhile, several state legislatures have taken up measures to maintain net neutrality under their states' regulatory regimes, raising the prospect of up to 50 different regulatory regimes for internet issues. Congress should ensure that there is a uniform national standard that guarantees net neutrality. To that end, Senate Democrats have introduced a resolution that would reject the FCC action and prevent deregulation of the Internet for 10 years. It has enough support, 50 committed senators, to force a floor vote and is just one vote short of passage.

Equal access to the internet, the most important telecommunications medium of the era, is a fundamental matter of social and economic justice. It should not be at the discretion of private entities. – Pottsville Republican-Herald; [also see \*Johnstown Tribune-Democrat\* editorial](#)

