

## Checks and Balances Scenarios:

A. Homeland Security officials have been ordered to open suspicious packages they believe might be from terrorists

- Homeland Security officials are part of the **Executive Branch**
- If the **Legislative Branch** disagreed, it could stop funding the Homeland Security department or program responsible

The **Judicial Branch** could declare the law unconstitutional

B. A bill recently passed to allow citizens to choose their own health care plan under Medicare

- Bills are passed in the **Legislative Branch**
- The President (**Executive Branch**) could veto the bill

C. The United States has signed a peace treaty with Iran

Treaties are made by the **Executive Branch**

All treaties must be confirmed by the Senate (**Legislative Branch**)

D. A bill is passed outlawing American citizens from making contributions to charitable organizations from the Middle East

- The **Legislative Branch** could pass such a law
- The President (**Executive Branch**) could veto the bill

If the bill was signed by the President, citizens who felt the law violated their rights could take the case to the **Judicial Branch**

E. A replacement for the Secretary of Defense has been given to Congress

- The **Executive Branch** makes appointments to the Cabinet
- The Senate (**Legislative Branch**) can accept or reject the appointment

F. A recent law closing a tax reduction for US companies establishing off shore companies is ruled constitutional

- The **Judicial Branch** would hear a challenge to a tax law and decide if it was constitutional.
- The Congress (**Legislative Branch**) could rewrite the law to make it more in line with the constitution

G. A recent bill to increase funding for education was passed over the President's rejection of the bill

- The Congress (**Legislative Branch**) can override a veto (rejection of a bill) if 2/3 of both houses vote to do so.
- The President (**Executive Branch**) can make an appeal to the people to convince Congress to change its mind
- The **Judicial Branch** can declare the law unconstitutional

H. A health care insurance company has been ordered to pay for additional treatment requested by a patient

- The **Judicial Branch** would hear cases where people felt they were illegally hurt by a company or individual
- The **Legislative Branch** can re-write the law to make it Constitutional