

Name: _____ Date: _____

Constitution - Who is in charge of your health decisions?

* A July 2006 headline reads:

Teen loses fight to use alternative cancer treatment

“NORFOLK, Virginia (AP) A judge ruled Friday that a 16-year-old boy fighting to use alternative treatment for his cancer must report to a hospital by Tuesday and accept treatment that doctors deem necessary, the family's attorney said.” USA Today.com

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-07-21-youth-cancer_x.htm

*** Proposal would allow court-ordered TB treatment**

“ALBUQUERQUE — New Mexico health officials have gone to the Legislature after noticing a disturbing trend of tuberculosis patients not following treatment - increasing the risk of becoming resistant to TB drugs and spreading the disease.

Health officials want the power to ask courts for help in getting TB patients to follow doctors' orders. The measure could be voted on in the House as early as today.”

Las Cruces Sun-News 2/23/09

*** Illinois health official seeks court order against infectious-TB patient**

“A central Illinois health official wants a judge to order an uncooperative patient with infectious tuberculosis to stay in his home and wear an electronic monitoring ankle bracelet, in order to prevent the spread of disease.” <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/apr/10/illinois-court-order-infectious-tb-tuberculosis-patient>

*** County health officials get court order to stop HIV-infected man**

“To stop a man with HIV who has infected eight other people in the last four years, public health officials have sought court enforcement of its order requiring him to attend counseling and treatment sessions.” http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2024509443_hivorderxml.html

* **Refusing treatment** “Maryland health officials seek policy to allow courts to order some mentally ill people into outpatient civil commitment programs if they don't take their medications as prescribed. <http://touch.baltimoresun.com/-section/-1/article/p2p-82259864/>

Which part of your State's constitution or the U.S. Constitution empowers the government to override a person's health decisions?

Should the government have the final say in the personal health care decisions of its citizens? Support your answer.
