Liberty or protection

Governments are made to protect the rights and freedom of its people. A government’s existence is barren if it doesn’t fulfill its purpose. During the civil war, Abraham Lincoln suspended habeas corpus in order to prevent Maryland from becoming a slave state. This became a controversy because he disregarded some people’s rights in order to protect the country itself. It isn’t possible for a government, with its first duty as protection of life, to protect the rights and freedoms of its people fully because on occasion freedom and liberty has to be sacrificed for security. However, we believe that there are rights that the government must hold inviolable in order to maintain the status of being a democracy.

We don’t believe that it’s possible for a government to fully protect all of it’s people’s rights and liberties if it’s first duty is to protect its people’s lives. A good example of this in present times is terrorism and the government handling of it. Since 911, new ways of maintaining airport security have been added like bag checks, pat downs, and full body x-rays. Many people see these methods as invasions of their constitutional rights which would be breaking the part of the fourth amendment which says,”The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated.” This belief is true, however, how else will the government protect its people from terrorists or foreign attacks. The way that the government can prevent itself from abusing this extended power is through a stability of the amount of power that each part of the government maintains, called the checks and balances system. The Supreme Court can declare the executive and legislative branch’s laws unconstitutional. The executive branch can veto a bill and they appoint the Supreme Court members. Finally the legislative branch can impeach the president and override a veto.

Though we believe that the government should be trusted with our security, there are rights which we believe must be held inviolable. The first amendment is the right to freedom of speech, religion, press and assembling, this is important because it gives people the ability to openly share discontent with the government and attempt to acquire change. One example of change is the twenty-fourth amendment which gave women the right to vote, and this is important so that our government can remain a democracy with the people holding power. These rights must not be changed because without them nothing prevents our government from becoming a corrupt.

In conclusion, we believe that the government deserves the ability to take away some of our rights or liberties for the greater good. Sometimes we have to decide what is better for everyone and remember that at times the government may be being unfair in security, but we need to remember that they are trying to do what is in our best interests and fulfill their purpose simultaneously.