**VIRTUAL CONGRESS – HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW!**

**PURPOSE and OBJECTIVES: Since most of the work on legislation is done through committees, we will simulate the interaction of key congresspersons, lobbyists, and the president during the process of considering the president’s legislative program. You will encounter the problems and pressures that politicians as well as lobbyists face and also learn how our Congress works.**

***Considerations in the Congressional Simulation*:**

1. **Presentation of the president’s legislative program to Congress. There are 3 major pieces of legislation to pass:**
2. **Federal Mine Safety Act**
3. **The Quality Education Act**
4. **The Clean Air Act**
5. **Each bill has 3 major provisions, and each provision has three alternative clauses ranging from liberal to conservative. You will be assigned goals revolving around these provisions and alternative clauses.**
6. **You will use oral and written argumentation, bargaining, persuasion, and compromise to accomplish as many of your goals as possible. \*NOTE: Do not reveal your goals initially until the process begins.**
7. **Your resources include: the president, the lobbyists have money, election votes and positions; the members of Congress have their votes in Congress.**
8. **The president and lobbyists must try to persuade the congresspersons to vote for their particular position by appealing to their reason and ideology by making tangible rewards available to them.**
9. **The Congresspersons must attempt to secure safe re-election by their dealings with the president and the lobbyists.**

***\*Note: Each lobbyist has control of $20,000 from campaign contributor and 100,000 votes to use in bargaining.***

***The Steps in the Legislative Process:***

1. **Each bill is presented separately before 3 joint Senate and House subcommittees.**
2. **After the lobbyists present evidence and the subcommittees debate the provisions, the committee members vote on the bill in executive session.**
3. **Then the full Senate and House committees take action on their subcommittee reports.**
4. **If differences exist in the House and Senate bills, the bills must be referred to the Conference Committee before going to the president.**
5. **When the bill reaches the president’s desk, he either vetoes it or signs it into law.**

***Grading: Who wins? i.e. Who beats who? Each student will have a score sheet to keep a record of votes and money received and given. 3 Daily Grades.***

Members of Congress: You want to be re-elected so….you are dependent on the number of votes you will receive.

Lobbyists’: Based on the percentage of the total points that they are able to receive.

The President: Based on the percentage of the total points that they are able to receive.