Dear reader,

We are proud to announce our new homepage feature called "Headlines" where you can read short articles about major news events which relate to ProCon.org research. Recent topics include Bill Clinton being vegan, the first pro athlete suspended for human growth hormone (HGH) use, teacher tenure laws changing in 18 states in 2011, and many more. Please visit www.procon.org to see our latest headlines.

We have also published new research on many of our most popular topics including medical marijuana, euthanasia, death penalty, and health care reform. Read on for highlights below.

1. MEDICAL MARIJUANA - Six States with Pending Legislation to Legalize Medical Marijuana

Bills in six states died in committee when legislative sessions adjourned, leaving pending legislation in IL, MA, NH, NY, OH, and PA.

2. OBESITY - US and Global Obesity Levels: The Fat Chart

21.8% of the total global population and 33.9% of the US population is obese. Between 1960 and 2006 obesity rates in the US more than doubled, making the US the most obese industrialized country on Earth. See our new chart to find obesity levels in each US state and 92 countries across the globe.

3. HEALTH CARE REFORM - Are the new health care reform laws constitutional?

On Aug. 12, 2011 a three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit ruled (2-1) that the insurance mandate of the PPACA is unconstitutional. Four cases have found PPACA constitutional, and two have found it unconstitutional. Read top pros and cons on the constitutionality of PPACA.

4. DEATH PENALTY - Forms of Execution in the United States, 1977 - 2009

Between 1977 and 2009, 1,188 people were executed in the US. 1,016 (85%) were executed by lethal injection and 156 (13.1%) were electrocuted. 672 (56.6%) of those executed were white and 411 (34.6%) were black. Read more about the forms of execution in the US, and see our chart documenting the executions by method and race.

5. EUTHANASIA - Euthanasia Opinion Polls/Surveys

Public support for euthanasia and physician assisted suicide has slowly increased from 1947 to 2010. Read poll and survey results from Gallup, CBS News, FOX News, Pew Research, and others.
6. MILK - Did You Know? Little Known Facts in the Milk Debate

The National School Lunch Act requires that schools serve milk. In 2008, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ruled that milk from cloned cows was safe for human consumption. The retail sale of raw cow's milk for human consumption is illegal in 42 states. Read about these and other interesting facts in the debate surrounding milk on our "Did You Know?" page.

7. TEACHERS AND LIBRARIANS - PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY

If you have not already done so, please take two minutes to share your thoughts on ProCon.org by completing our online survey. If you had taken the survey before you used ProCon.org in your classroom, please take the survey again and let us know what you and your students thought about using ProCon.org.

8. PLEASE DONATE - If you like what we do, please make a tax-deductible donation to ProCon.org and help keep critical thinking alive. As a small nonprofit, we could really use your financial support.

We really appreciate your feedback, donations, and referrals to people in the media and grant-making foundations, so please keep them coming.

Thanks as always for your interest in our nonpartisan research.

Sincerely,

Kamy Akhavan
President & Managing Editor, ProCon.org
"Promoting Critical Thinking, Education, and Informed Citizenship"

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