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Dear Kambiz,

Our latest research updates are listed below and include information on: [gay marriage](#) in Texas, United States vs. international [health care spending](#), [tablets vs. textbooks](#) in schools, direct-to-consumer [prescription drug advertisements](#), and our recent headline articles.

## **GAY MARRIAGE**

[Federal Judge Rules Texas' Gay Marriage Ban Unconstitutional](#) - On Feb. 26, 2014, a federal judge ruled Texas' gay marriage ban unconstitutional. Judge Orlando Garcia wrote "Without a rational relation to a legitimate governmental purpose, state-imposed inequality can find no refuges in our U.S. Constitution." He then stayed his own decision pending appeal to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, leaving same-sex marriage illegal in Texas.

## **HEALTH CARE REFORM**

[United States vs. International Health Care Spending](#) - The United States spent \$2.7 trillion, 17.9% of its GDP, on health care in 2011 - the most of any country in our comparison, including France (11.7%), Japan (9.6%), and Canada (11.4%). View our charts comparing nine other nations to the United States in health care spending per capita and spending as a % of GDP.

## **PRESCRIPTION DRUG ADS**

[Direct-to-Consumer \(DTC\) Prescription Drug Ad Articles in Medical Journals, 1983-2013](#) - After the FDA authorized prescription drug advertising on television and radio in Aug. 1997, ads flooded the market resulting in more studies and articles written analyzing the effects of the ads. In 2005 45 articles about DTC prescription drug ads were published in medical journals, up from zero in 1996. See our bibliography of all 449 articles published between 1983 and 2013 with summary breakdowns by year and by decade.

[35 Prescription Drugs Pulled from the Market](#) - After being approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), we have found 35 prescription drugs that have been removed from the US market since the 1970s over safety concerns. See all 35 drugs including Quaalude (pulled in 1985), Accutane (pulled in June 2009), and Vioxx (pulled in 2009), along with information about their use, manufacturer, years on the market, and cause for recall, including reported number of deaths from using those drugs.

## **TABLETS VS. TEXT BOOKS**

[Should Tablets Replace Textbooks in K-12 Schools?](#) - Updated with new statistics on the debate over tablets vs. textbooks. Find out how many students went to the emergency room with backpack-related injuries, see a price comparison of tablets and textbooks, and learn more about school districts that are implementing the use of tablets.

## **FROM OUR HEADLINES**

- [Minimum Legal Drinking Age of 21 Saves Lives, According to New Study](#)
- [United States Winning Fewer Deportation Cases Than Ever Before](#)

- [Felon Voting Bans Criticized by US Attorney General Holder](#)

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Please forward these updates to others who may be interested. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

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