Dear reader,

ProCon.org was honored formally in the US House of Representatives earlier this month. Wow. Just wow.

Read on for more about this special recognition along with some of our latest research on the petition to reschedule marijuana, concealed guns in Wisconsin, teenage milk consumption, sexual orientation and when it's recognized, the history of drugs used to treat obesity, and more. Also, special thanks to our Facebook fans who "Liked" our posts in record numbers these past few weeks.

1. **ProCon.org Honored in US House of Representatives**

On July 6, 2011, ProCon.org was added to the *Congressional Record* when Congressman Rob Andrews (D-NJ) honored ProCon.org by reading a glowing statement about us on the floor of the US House of Representatives. His statement said in part: "It is my distinct pleasure to honor the staff of ProCon.org and wish them continued successes in their service to the American public. Their unbiased and truthful presentation makes a tremendous contribution to the political system."

2. **DEA Denies Petition to Reclassify Marijuana out of Most Restrictive Schedule**

On June 21, 2011 the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) denied an Oct. 9, 2002 request to reclassify marijuana out of the most restrictive Schedule I category where heroin, LSD, and peyote are also classified, ruling that marijuana "has a high potential for abuse" and "has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States."

For our website on the pros and cons of medical marijuana, [click here](#). Share your views on our [comments page](#) or just read what other readers have to say.

3. **Obama administration to support repeal of Defense of Marriage Act**

The announcement follows President Obama's decision on Feb. 23, 2011 to instruct the Justice Department to stop defending DOMA, the federal law that defines marriage as a legal union between a man and woman, over concerns that it violates the equal protection component of the Fifth Amendment. Sen. Dianne Feinstein's (D-CA) bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is called the Respect for Marriage Act and had 27 co-sponsors as of July 20, 2011. Read about this story and others on our updated [Same-Sex Marriage Timeline](#).

For our website on the pros and cons of whether gay marriage should be allowed, [click here](#). Share your views on our [comments page](#) or just read what other readers have to say.

4. **Obesity Drugs Timeline**

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Read the history of drugs (and their side effects) used to treat obesity from the late 1800s to 2011. Learn about drugs like dinitrophenol from the 1930s (no longer legal for dietary use) that Reuters reports "sped up metabolism so much that it led to nerve malfunction," and other drugs that were rejected by the FDA, discontinued by the manufacturer, and remain on the market today.

For our website on the pros and cons of whether obesity is a disease, [click here](#). Share your views on our [comments page](#) or just read what other readers have to say.

**5. Wisconsin Legalizes Concealed Guns**

On July 8, 2011, Wisconsin became the 49th state to allow concealed carry. Wisconsin citizens who go through training and obtain a permit will be able to carry a concealed handgun in most public buildings and private businesses (including bars and churches) unless establishments post a sign forbidding it starting Nov. 1, 2011.

For our website on the pros and cons of whether adults should have the right to carry a concealed handgun, [click here](#). Share your views on our [comments page](#) or just read what other readers have to say.

**6. Teens Drink Milk More Often Than Any Other Beverages But Water**

As of spring 2010, milk remains the most popular teen beverage after water except among black teens where it ranks behind water, fruit juice, and soda. Our new chart, based on a June 17, 2011 CDC report, shows the percentage of high school students who over a one week period drank water, milk, fruit juice, soda, sports drinks, other sweetened drinks, coffee or tea, diet soda, and energy drinks.

For our website on the pros and cons of whether milk is healthy for humans, [click here](#). Share your views on our [comments page](#) or just read what other readers have to say.

**7. Is there an age by which people realize their sexual orientation?**

Read pro and con arguments from the American Psychological Association (pro), the Traditional Values Coalition (con), the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (pro), Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (con), and other leading experts and organizations.

For our website on the pros and cons of whether sexual orientation is determined at birth, [click here](#). Share your views on our [comments page](#) or just read what other readers have to say.

**8. Teachers and librarians**, 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
9. 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. If you can't make a financial contribution, then check out the 20 other ways you can help ProCon.org for free.

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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