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Dear reader,

We just released our [newest video](#) about how critical thinking improves democracy, and we received some [powerful testimonials](#) from high-level educators. All of this, plus our latest research updates on medical marijuana and gay marriage below.

CALIFORNIA'S TOP EDUCATION OFFICIAL SUPPORTS PROCON.ORG

"As someone who uses procon.org personally, I see the great value it can bring to California's students, teachers, and librarians. This free educational resource helps students develop vital 21st century skills such as critical thinking and civics education. It also helps them learn about important issues, and is consistent with Common Core and the findings of my Education Technology Task Force."

June 11, 2013 - Tom Torlakson, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction

PAST PRESIDENT OF MAJOR EDUCATION ORGANIZATION ENDORSES PROCON.ORG

"Terrific site for helping students learn about argumentation: <http://www.procon.org>"

June 5, 2013 - Carol Jago, former President of the National Council of Teachers of English

NEW VIDEO

[Critical Thinking Explained](#) - What is critical thinking, and why is it so important? This episode of ProCon.org's Critical Thinking Video Series explores the ways critical thinking cuts through confusion, encourages citizen involvement, and leads to a stronger democracy.

NEW STUDY ON WHY DISCUSSING CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IS KEY

[New study shows students who discuss/debate controversial issues get higher NAEP test scores](#) - See this and other studies showing the importance of teaching controversial issues to stimulate critical thinking, education, and informed citizenship.

2-MINUTE EDUCATOR SURVEY

Teachers, librarians, and administrators in over 3,750 schools in all 50 US states and 56 countries use ProCon.org to stimulate students' critical thinking. Educators, if you have not already done so, please take our [2-minute survey](#) and let us know how YOU use ProCon.org.

GAY MARRIAGE

[Should gay marriage be legal?](#) - Read our updated pro and con arguments in this popular debate.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

[Six States with Pending Legislation to Legalize Medical Marijuana](#) - Bills died in

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Quinn has not yet announced whether he will sign a bill passed by the legislature on May 17, 2013, legalizing medical marijuana.

FROM OUR HEADLINES

Check our homepage for the latest headlines about events in the news with helpful links related to ProCon.org research. See our most recent headlines below:

- [Tax-Exempt Churches Challenge IRS on "Pulpit Freedom Sunday"](#)
- [Virginia Governor Restores the Vote to Nonviolent Felons](#)
- [47% of Americans Believe People Are Born Gay](#)
- [Corporate Tax Rate Debate in Congress Focused on Apple](#)
- [Minnesota Becomes 12th State to Legalize Gay Marriage](#)
- [Medical Marijuana Can Be Banned in Cities and Counties, California Supreme Court Says](#)

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Please keep in touch with your referrals, suggestions, or comments (pro or con). Thank you so much for helping us to spread critical thinking, education, and informed citizenship.

Sincerely,

Kamy Akhavan

President & Managing Editor, ProCon.org

"Promoting Critical Thinking, Education, and Informed Citizenship"

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