Dear reader,

We're proud to announce our new website on the pros and cons of standardized testing. It is the 42nd ProCon.org website and it explores the core question "Is the use of standardized tests improving education in America?"

Also, out of roughly 16 million websites on the Internet (according to Alexa.com), ProCon.org was designated among the 25 best reference websites for 2011 by a division of the American Library Association. Other winners included TED, Wikileaks, UNESCO, and Google. We are honored by this high-level distinction.

Finally, we've got more new content below that we think you'll really enjoy reading.

1. **New ProCon.org Website! Is the use of standardized tests improving education in America?**

Standardized tests have been a part of American education since the mid-1800s. Their use skyrocketed after 2002's No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) mandated annual testing in all 50 states. Proponents say standardized tests are a fair and objective measure of student achievement, and that they ensure teachers and schools are accountable. Opponents say the tests are neither fair nor objective, and that their use narrows the curriculum and promotes "teaching to the test." ProCon.org's 42nd website explores the pros and cons in the debate over standardized tests.

2. **ProCon.org Wins Top 25 Website Award from American Library Association division along with TED, Wikileaks, UNESCO, and Google Translate**

Thank you to the reference librarians who voted for ProCon.org and who have supported our work over the years. Out of roughly 16 million websites on the Internet (according to Alexa.com), we are thrilled that ProCon.org has been designated among the 25 best by such an esteemed organization.

3. **Felon Voting: Incarcerated Felon Population in the US by Type of Crime Committed, 1974-2008**

As of 2008, US state and federal prisons housed a total of 1,544,634 inmates. In state prisons, the majority of the prisoners (52.4%) are in for violent crimes, while in federal prisons most inmates (52.0%) are in for drug related offenses.

4. **"Like Us" on Facebook**

3,900+ people "Like" ProCon.org on Facebook. We had over 6 million people using our websites last year. Please help us close the gap and "Like" us on Facebook then tell your friends to do the same. Our goal is to get at least 10,000 fans by the end of 2011. Can you help?
sell nine times better than drugs without such ads.

On May 26, 2011 the Congressional Budget Office released a study on direct-to-consumer (DTC) advertising of new prescription drugs. According to the study, the average number of prescriptions for new drugs with DTC advertising is nine times greater than prescriptions for new drugs without DTC ads. Visit our website to see the full study, an excerpt of its conclusions, and related information.

6. 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 using ProCon.org.

7. Health Care Reform: Health Care Survey

Please take our 20-question survey about the March 2011 health care reform laws. We want your honest opinions so we can publicize the final results and let US lawmakers and media know what Americans really think about the health care reform laws. Over 300 people have taken the survey so far. Make sure your voice gets heard.

8. Under God: Should the words "under God" be in the US Pledge of Allegiance?

NBC apologized for omitting the words "under God" from a clip of children reciting the Pledge of Allegiance that aired before the US Open golf tournament on Sunday June 18, 2011. Learn more about the phrase that was added in 1954 on our website and tell us what you think on our comments page: Should the words "under God" be in the US Pledge of Allegiance?

9. If you like what we do, please make a tax-deductible donation to ProCon.org and help keep critical thinking alive. 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"