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Dear Kambiz,

Have a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year, from your friends at ProCon.org.

Our **top five** ProCon.org research updates for this newsletter are listed below.



1. **[Which topics should ProCon.org cover in 2015?](#)**- Net neutrality? Common Core? Minimum wage? Affirmative action? GMOs? Something else? What do YOU think? You can vote for as many subjects as you like, or suggest some of your own.

2. **[ProCon.org Critical Thinking Seminar](#)** - Our seminar teaches critical thinking in a hands-on, interactive format. Read about this new lesson plan idea for teachers, see which Common Core standards it addresses, and watch a short video showing the seminar in action.



3. **[Legal Medical Marijuana Patients](#)**- Our exclusive research estimates that there are at least 1,137,069 legal medical marijuana patients in the United States, at least according to state laws; marijuana remains an illegal Schedule I drug according to the federal government. See which states have the most and the fewest users per capita and total in our state-by-state chart, map, and related research.



4. **[Gay Marriage Timeline, 1970-2014](#)** - In 1973, Maryland became the first state to ban same-sex marriage. On Nov. 20, 2014, South Carolina became the latest state to have its ban declared unconstitutional. The number of states with legal gay marriage has increased from zero in 2000 to five in 2010 to 35 as of today. Read about the history of gay marriage in our illustrated timeline.



5. **[President Obama Announced Executive Action to Prevent Deportation of Millions of Immigrants in the United States Illegally](#)**

From Our Headlines

[Cell Phone Use Increases Risk of Brain Tumors according to Swedish Study](#)

[Milk Associated with Increased Risk of Death, Study Says](#)

[Concealed Carry Permit Applications on the Rise in St. Louis Area](#)

[ProCon.org Goes Local with New Nonpartisan Election Resource](#)



TEACHERS' CORNER

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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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