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Representative Robert E. Andrews

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Honoring ProCon.org for Being Named a Top Free Reference Website

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the staff of the ProCon.org website. This site has recently been honored by the American Library Association as one of the Top 25 Free Reference Websites of 2011. This achievement is indicative of ProCon's value as a resource empowering citizens with information on some of the most controversial topics of the day.

ProCon.org, like many websites, is the product of a simple idea: to make unbiased information on controversial subjects more accessible without opinion or editorializing interfering. This idea came to the founder and CEO of ProCon.org, Steven C. Markoff, in 1984. While debating with a friend, Mr. Markoff realized that the popular discourse about the big issues of the day is always clouded by rhetoric, opinions and political leanings.

Since its inception, ProCon.org has influenced policy debates with its mission of "presenting research on controversial issues in a straightforward,

nonpartisan, and primarily pro-con format." More than 10 million people use this website every month for research and fact finding. ProCon has also been named a "Best Non Profit to Work For" by OpportunityKnocks.org and a "Valued Partner" by GuideStar. ProCon was further honored in 2008, when the Library of Congress asked to archive three of ProCon's websites as "materials of historical importance to the Congress and to the American People."

It is my distinct pleasure to honor the staff of ProCon.org and wish them continued success in their service to the American public. Their unbiased and truthful presentation makes a tremendous contribution to the political system.