

[REDACTED]

From: "Kari Kilgore" [REDACTED]
To: "MGMBill. org" <comments@mgmbill.org>
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2008 10:04 AM
Subject: Fwd: Circumcision

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ahern, Judith** <Judith.Ahern@governor.virginia.gov>
Date: Jan 17, 2008 4:46 PM
Subject: Circumcision
To: [REDACTED]

Ms. Kari Kilgore

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email to Governor Kaine regarding your concerns about unnecessary circumcisions. Since the regulation of health care is within the work of my office, he has forwarded your email to me for response.

I appreciate that you have become quite knowledgeable on the subject and have a global perspective on situations in other cultures as well as in this country. We are not aware of any Virginia law that requires male infants to be circumcised; it is entirely a voluntary decision made by parents based on their own particular views and beliefs. As you are aware, in the Judaic tradition, male infants are to be circumcised on the 8th day after birth; in the wider community, it is a matter of parental choice.

Circumcision is a carefully controlled surgical procedure and should not be equated with the genital mutilation that does occur in some parts of the world. The discussion and opinion about whether it is medically advisable varies from time to time, but no family is compelled or required to circumcise their son.

Again, we thank you for taking the time to write with your concerns.

Marilyn B. Tavenner

Secretary of Health and Human Resources

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