

To: Jimmy
Subject: RE: RE: 2010 MGM Bill proposal

--- On Mon, 1/18/10, Montgomery, Karen Delegate <Karen.Montgomery@house.state.md.us> wrote:

From: Montgomery, Karen Delegate <Karen.Montgomery@house.state.md.us>
Subject: RE: 2010 MGM Bill proposal
To: "Jimmy" [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, January 18, 2010, 12:46 PM

Dear Mr. Pinkley,

I read your email carefully and sympathize greatly for your situation. As I understand, circumcision is the surgical removal of the foreskin, performed for medical or religious reasons. There are, apparently, benefits of circumcision to include: decreased risk of urinary tract infections, reduced risk of sexually transmitted diseases, protection against penile cancer, prevention of balanitis (inflammation of the glans) and balanoposthitis (inflammation of the glans and foreskin), and prevention of phimosis (inability to retract the foreskin.). Some firmly believe that circumcision makes it easier to keep the end of the penis clean. That said, I understand there are a number of risks with male circumcision. There may be pain, a risk of bleeding/infection at the site, irritation of the glans, increased risk of meatitis (inflammation of the opening of the penis) and risk of injury to the penis. Obviously, circumcision is a surgical procedure and complications/injuries can arise due to medical incompetence and other factors. There are even cases of "circumcision" resulting in the complete removal of the skin covering the shaft of the penis, causing it to appear to have been completely surgically removed.

The American Academy of Pediatrics does NOT recommend circumcision as a routine procedure for newborn males. And, other major medical organizations agree. However, problems from circumcision are not common and if they do occur, they are usually minor.

In my own opinion, I believe male circumcision is a family decision based on traditions and religious beliefs. As stated above, there are some benefits; and yes, as with any surgical procedure, there can be definite risks and problematic outcomes.

You may have noted that I do not address female "circumcision". I do not consider the mutilation of female genitalia to be in the same category as male circumcision. Females subjected to this mutilation are victims of a heinous practice, as your attachment outlines.

I am sorry that you have personally suffered and consider yourself a victim. And I hope that some type of medical help may alleviate your situation. However, I cannot support such a proposal that prohibits male circumcision.

I wish the best to you.

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