March 10, 2004

Ms. Sara Unluagac
Dear Ms. Unluagac:

Thank you for sharing your concern about male genital mutilation and support for legislation that would ban this procedure.

Male circumcision is performed each year for reasons that vary from symbolic ritual to health protection. While opponents of the procedure argue it may be dangerous to a baby boy's health, scientific evidence supports the potential medical benefits of newborn male circumcision. Despite this data, experts are not recommending routine neonatal circumcision. The American Academy of Pediatrics argues that when the procedure is not essential to the child's health, the decision should be left to the parents and their pediatrician.

Should the medical community determine male circumcision is unsafe and recommend the procedure not be performed, I would support their recommendation. In addition, should relevant legislation be introduced, I will keep your views in mind. Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

SHERROD BROWN
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