

ORRIN G. HATCH
UTAH

PATRICIA KNIGHT
CHIEF OF STAFF

104 Hart Senate Office Building

TELEPHONE: (202) 224-5251
TDD (202) 224-2849
FAX: (202) 224-6331

Website: <http://www.senate.gov/~hatch>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4402

March 24, 2006

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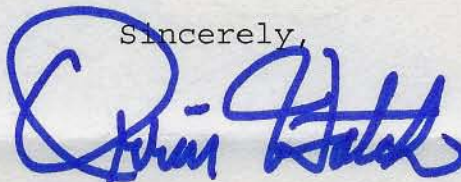
Dear Trevor:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Male Genital Mutilation Bill proposal. I appreciate you taking the time to contact me.

As you may well know, circumcision is a common practice, performed on more than 50 percent of newborn males in the United States. While several studies have shown that neonatal circumcision may be linked to emotional problems in adulthood, no definitive information has come forth as to the long-term emotional effects that neonatal circumcision may have. As is the case in all elective medical procedures performed on children, parental consent must be given before a doctor can circumcise a newborn child. Ultimately, I believe that parents should decide what is best for their children.

Once again, I thank you for your letter and hope that you will not hesitate to contact me in the future regarding any question or comment you may have.

Sincerely,



Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

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