

**Subject:**

FW: Pennsylvania MGM Bill Proposal

From: **Eli Evankovich** <[Eevankov@pahousegop.com](mailto:Eevankov@pahousegop.com)>

Date: Thu, Jan 13, 2011 at 10:42 AM

Subject: Re: Pennsylvania MGM Bill Proposal

To: Kari Danner

Dear Ms. Danner,

Thank you for contacting me about a legislation that would prohibit male circumcision. I appreciate hearing from you.

As you are aware, circumcision of the male infant is a controversial issue. Due to the complexity of this issue, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) issued a policy statement regarding circumcision. In summary, AAP states, "Existing scientific evidence demonstrates potential medical benefits of newborn male circumcision; however, these data are not sufficient to recommend routine neonatal circumcision. In the case of circumcision, in which there are potential benefits and risks, yet the procedure is not essential to the child's current well-being, parents should determine what is in the best interest of the child. To make an informed choice, parents of all male infants should be given accurate and unbiased information and be provided the opportunity to discuss this decision. It is legitimate for parents to take into account cultural, religious, and ethnic traditions, in addition to the medical factors, when making this decision. Analgesia is safe and effective in reducing the procedural pain associated with circumcision; therefore, if a decision for circumcision is made, procedural analgesia should be provided. If circumcision is performed in the newborn period, it should only be done on infants who are stable and healthy."

In addition, your letter requests that the practice of "forced" circumcision be ended in this Commonwealth. I am not aware of any Pennsylvania law that requires infants to be circumcised; it is entirely a voluntary decision made by parents based on their own particular views and beliefs. Furthermore, while I am aware that genital mutilation does occur in certain parts of the world, I am not sure it is accurate to suggest that circumcision, a carefully controlled surgical procedure, be equated with genital mutilation. While you do make a compelling argument, it may be one best settled within the medical community.

With that said, I will review the proposed legislation you have enclosed, as well as request that my staff look into this issue further.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I hope you will not hesitate to be in touch with further information, or comments or questions about issues of state government.

Sincerely,

Representative Eli Evankovich  
PA State Representative  
54th Legislative District