

MARIA CANTWELL
WASHINGTON



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

July 17, 2006

Ms. Katherine A. Tylczak

Federal Way, Washington

Dear Ms. Tylczak,

Thank you for contacting me with your opposition to the practice of male circumcision. I appreciate the opportunity to learn about your views, and regret the delayed response.

As you know, male circumcision has not received the widespread scrutiny or condemnation directed towards circumcisions performed on females. In the United States, the circumcision of a female minor has been criminalized under federal law. Title 18, section 116 of the United States Code requires that offenders pay a fine or serve a prison term of not more than five years.

I am aware of efforts by certain organizations to prohibit circumcisions performed on males. At this time, a bill that would achieve this has yet to be introduced in the 109th Congress. Please be assured that I will keep your views in mind should the Senate consider this issue in the future.

Thank you again for contacting me to share you thoughts on this matter. Finally, you may be interested in signing up for my weekly update for Washington state residents. Every Monday, I provide a brief outline about my work in the Senate and issues of importance to Washington state. If you are interested in subscribing to this update, please visit my website at <http://cantwell.senate.gov>. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the future if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

MC: dlc