

[REDACTED]

From: "Trisha Darner" [REDACTED]
To: "MGMBill.org" <comments@mgmbill.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2008 1:07 PM
Subject: FW: A Legislative Bill Regarding Circumcision

-----Original Message-----

From: Sen Bates [mailto:Bates.Sen@state.or.us]
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2008 12:24 PM
To: Trisha Darner
Subject: RE: A Legislative Bill Regarding Circumcision

Ms. Darner -

Thank you for writing our office about your concerns. Male circumcision is not an easy issue, as there are historical, cultural, religious, and personal issues involved. While Senator Bates certainly respects your position and recognizes the risks of any medical procedure (he is a family physician), he would not support a bill that outlaws male circumcision. It is true that we are not gender-neutral in our laws regarding circumcision, but Senator Bates does not believe that female and male circumcision are comparable from a cultural or medical standpoint. Female circumcision has no medical indication and its cultural practice is used primarily to subjugate women. Although there is not consensus about it, there is evidence that circumcision can be medically advantageous and its cultural practice is not intended to be abusive or a means of subjugation.

Again, thank you for bringing this issue to our attention and I appreciate having this discussion. Unfortunately, as a family physician, this is not a position that Senator Bates can support, both from a medical and a cultural perspective.

Erin Fair
Chief of Staff
Senator Alan Bates
503-986-1703