



*State of New Jersey*

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES**

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JON S. CORZINE  
*Governor*

FRED M. JACOBS, M.D., J.D.  
*Commissioner*

March 28, 2006

Mr. John W. Soemer

~~████████████████████~~  
Flanders, NJ ~~██████████~~

Dear Mr. Soemer:

Your letter to Governor Corzine has been referred to me for reply.

The issue of circumcision has been controversial for some time. There has been debate within both the medical community and the consumer community. The consumer community in New Jersey is made up of individuals from many different cultures including many ethnic and religious backgrounds with some viewing circumcision as a religious rite.

Medical circumcision is a surgical procedure and therefore requires informed consent. This means that before any circumcision can be performed in a health care facility in New Jersey, the individual or the parent, in the case of a child, must be informed of the risks and benefits of the procedure and this individual must sign a consent form.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eddy A. Bresnitz". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Eddy A. Bresnitz, MD, MS  
Deputy Commissioner/State Epidemiologist