



Senator Brent Waltz
State House
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2785

Committees:
Appropriations
Commerce & Economic Development
Pensions & Labor, R.M.
Public Policy

Monday August 6, 2012

Mr. Jeffery L. Cowsert
[REDACTED]
Indianapolis, IN [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Cowsert:

Thank you so very much for taking the time to write me. I am in receipt of your letter dated June 27 regarding male circumcision. There has certainly been a renewed interest in this issue since legislation in Germany was passed early this year that made it the equivalent of the crime of assault to circumcise a child. There does seem to be a discontinuity between the almost universal call to ban female circumcision and the prevailing attitude on male circumcision.

The "others" you spoke of who made this decision were presumably your parents. As a matter of law one's parents have certain rights to decide various health and religious matters on a child's behalf, of which this issue could be argued in some cases to be both. Granted few religious decisions, such as baptism, are as invasive or irrevocable as circumcision, so I would prefer to err on the side of caution on the religion component.

The past several decades saw lengthy medical research into positive aspects of circumcision which includes the reduction of risk to certain diseases, including HIV. This would seem to be the strongest argument in favor of the status quo, in my opinion.

I am confident that this matter will be debated at length in the months ahead. I really appreciate your thoughts on this and will use them to help me cast an intelligent vote on this issue.

Again, thanks for writing. If I can be of service to you in the future, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brent Waltz".

Brent Waltz
Senator,
State of Indiana