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NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

July 10, 2006

Katherine Tylczak

Federal Way, Washington

Dear Katherine,

Thank you for contacting me to express your concerns over the medical procedure, circumcision. I appreciated hearing your comments and would like to take a moment to respond.

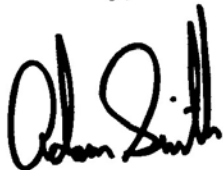
As you know, circumcision is a medical procedure given to male infants where some or all of the foreskin is removed from the reproductive organ. The practice of circumcision has a long history in many different cultures and countries. Circumcision remains the most common surgical procedures performed on young males, predominately members of the Muslim and Jewish faiths, but also the majority of Americans, South Koreans and Filipinos.

The reasons to circumcise infants vary depending on the culture, religion, and history. Proponents point to medical studies that contend circumcision may reduce the rate of HIV and other STD transmissions. However, this issue remains unclear as there is no true consensus in the medical community.

I appreciate you voicing your opposition to this procedure. Thank you for bringing to my attention to the Genital Mutilation Prohibition Act, which would prohibit this procedure. To my knowledge, this bill has not been introduced in either the House or Senate during the 109th Congressional Session. Please let me know if this proposed legislation is, but as I evaluate other healthcare policies, I will be sure to keep your comments in mind.

Thank you again for taking the time to write me on this important issue. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any additional comments or concerns.

Sincerely,



Adam Smith
Member of Congress

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