



27 March 2018

Alþingi  
Kirkjustræti  
150 Reykjavík

RE: Circumcision Legislation

Ágæta Alþingi,

Kveðjur frá Bandaríkjunum! We are writing to express our support of the proposal to outlaw non-therapeutic male circumcision of minors in Iceland. Our organization's mission is to educate people on the harms of circumcision, the functions of foreskin, and the proper care of intact male genitals in infancy and childhood. We are based in Texas and have thousands of participants in every state of the USA, along with many supporters around the world.

At Your Whole Baby, we advocate for the protection of male, female, and intersex babies and children from non-therapeutic genital surgeries, regardless of parental religious motivations. Some religious leaders have claimed that this legislation is an infringement on the freedom to practice religion. We recognize that while the inability to continue practicing one aspect of their religion is a consequence of this law, it is not the purpose of or motivation for it. Instead, we recognize the legislation is designed to protect human rights, genital autonomy, and the child's right to their own religious freedom.

Although male infant circumcision is prevalent in modern American medical culture, our rates have dropped from over 80% in the 1980s to 58% in 2010.<sup>1</sup> State by state, our government-funded insurance (Medicaid) has stopped paying for this unnecessary procedure; as of 2018, 17 of 50 states no longer provide Medicaid payments for non-therapeutic circumcision.<sup>2</sup>

We applaud Iceland's proposed legislation as progressive, and we believe that your courageous effort can help lead the world toward legal protection of the bodily integrity of all children.

Best Regards,

Jen Williams  
Founder & Director  
Your Whole Baby, 501(c)(3)

---

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2011.) Trends in in-hospital newborn male circumcision—United States, 1999–2010. *MMWR* 60(34), 1167–8.

<sup>2</sup> Circumcision Resource Center. (n.d.) Medicaid funding for circumcision. Retrieved from <http://www.circumcision.org/medicaid.htm>



Your Whole Baby, 501(c)(3)