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Efni: Legislation

MY WIFE AND I WILL NOT BE TRAVELING TO YOUR COUNTRY THIS YEAR FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

YOUR PARLIAMENT IS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING A BILL THAT AMOUNTS TO NOTHING LESS THAN A DIRECT ASSAULT ON THE JEWISH FAITH.

Incredibly, your proposed law would not only ban the circumcision of male infants, but would criminalize the act and make it punishable by up to six years in prison.

Simply put, this bill would deal a devastating blow to the right of every individual to serve his or her Creator as he or she sees fit.

The fact that Iceland's representatives have decided to single out circumcision, rather than banning all forms of cosmetic procedures on children belies their assertion that it is intended purely to protect the young. It's anti-Semitic.

Furthermore, given Iceland's treatment of Jews over the past 150 years, one would expect your country to tread a little more carefully.

In 1853, Iceland's parliament turned down a request by the king of Denmark to allow Jews to reside in the country.

In 1938, when Austrian Jews were trying to flee in the wake of the rise of Nazism, Iceland refused to allow them entry, callously leaving them to their fate.

As Dr. Vilhalmur Vilhalmsson noted in a comprehensive 2004 paper entitled, "Iceland, the Jews and anti-Semitism" published in Jewish Political Studies Review, "With regard to the Holocaust, Iceland is not a blank page." There were Icelanders in the Waffen SS who fought for Germany, while others served in concentration camps; the son of Iceland's first president was a member of the SS who escaped prosecution after the war. Icelandic officials went so far as to offer to pay the cost for the expulsion of Jews from its territory to Germany.

With such a dubious national record, Iceland should be ashamed of itself for even considering a ban on circumcision, which it must have known would arouse indignation among Jews and Muslims alike.