

Alþingi  
Kirkjustræti 150  
Reykjavík

Umsögn um frumvarp til laga um breytingu á almennum hegningarlögum (bann við umskurði drengja), 148. löggjafarþing, 114. mál.

26 March 2018

Ágætu þingmenn Alþingis / Dear Members of the Icelandic Parliament,

Thank you for making this proposal to protect the bodies of children from harm.

I was raised in a Jewish family, and I understand that people fear anti-semitism. Protecting all children from genital cutting is not an anti-semitic act. Protecting children from genital cutting is the act of a society that cares for its people's well being. Cutting the external genitalia of girls is part of many cultures, and your government prohibits this because your society cares about the well being and rights of its people.

Like many people born in the United States and in Jewish families, I was circumcised at 8 days old. I wish I had my whole body. Loss of the foreskin to circumcision, an important part of my body and sexuality, caused and continues to cause a tremendous feeling of loss and violation. I have met countless other people who share my feeling of violation and loss.

The foreskin is an important part of the penis. It protects the glans (head) of the penis from abrasion. Children circumcised as infants often get a condition called meatal stenosis, where the urethral opening is smaller or closes. This condition almost exclusively occurs in people who were circumcised at very young ages. There are many other risk that circumcision poses, including death from blood loss.

All the parts of the vulva are important, and there is not a correct amount that can be removed from a healthy child. The same applies to all children. There should not be surgery to modify or reduce the genitals of healthy children. You can not remove parts of the penis without affecting sex and the ability to feel sexual pleasure. How much of a healthy child's genitals are okay to remove? How much of your genitals could be removed without sex being effected?

Body modifications, like circumcision, should be for consenting adults only. Thank you for protecting girls from unnecessary modification of their genitals, and thank you for proposing to protect all children from genital cutting.

If there is anything I can do to support this proposal, please contact me.

Með kærri kveðju,

Evan Roman



Tallinn, Estonia

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P.S. I have spoken about the issue of circumcision in these two videos:

### **Mother Apologizes to Son for Circumcision**

*When Evan researched circumcision he was disturbed and angered by his findings. He approached his mom Denise with his research, she too was upset with what she learned. Together they attended Genital Integrity Awareness Week in Washington DC (2013) vowing to continue their work to stop genital cutting of children.*

<https://youtu.be/qUFwPD8yfNU>

### **My parents' religious rights stop where my body begins**

*"I'm Jewish and it happened to me. I think my parents' religious rights stop where my body begins. It removes the most sensitive parts of the penis." ~Evan, protesting with Bay Area Intactivists on Sunday, December 8, 2013*

<https://youtu.be/JHuwKxdqmbE>

### **Circumcision: A Mother's Apology - 4 Years Later**

*Four years ago Denise Roman publicly apologized to her son Evan, for having allowed someone to cut him when he was a baby. In this interview Denise discusses her feelings since, and the responses and the public conversation that video prompted.*

<https://youtu.be/7bG9FtmON1Q>

