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One Hundred Fifteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

April 5, 2018

His Excellency Ambassador Geir Haarde
Embassy of Iceland
House of Sweden
2900 K Street NW #509
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Ambassador Haarde:

We are writing to express our concern about a proposed bill in Iceland that would criminalize the centuries-old tradition of circumcision. The practice of circumcision is critical to the Muslim and Jewish faiths, and enacting this law would be an affront to religious freedom and tolerance.

If passed into law, this measure would create insurmountable challenges for Jews and Muslims living in Iceland. By outlawing this historic procedure, Iceland would not only be outlawing generations of tradition, but would also be sending a clear message to tourists, immigrants, and the world that Iceland is not a country fully accepting of different faiths and cultures.

The impact of this would be felt far beyond Iceland's borders. This move would make Iceland the first and only European nation to outlaw circumcision. While Jewish and Muslim populations in Iceland may be small, your country's ban could be exploited by those who stoke xenophobia and anti-Semitism in countries with more diverse populations.

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As a partner nation, we urge your government to stop this intolerant bill from advancing any further.

Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Affairs



EDWARD R. ROYCE
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs