



Kentucky Anti-FGM Legislation Sample Support Letter

Sample Subject: Prohibit Female Genital Mutilation: Support Banning FGM in Kentucky

Sample text:

I am writing to urge you to support Senator Raque Adam's bill which sends an important message that female genital mutilation (FGM) is a serious crime and will not be tolerated in Kentucky.

FGM is any procedure involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs and is often performed on girls between the ages of four and fourteen to ensure their virginity until marriage. This dangerous procedure has no health benefits and has lifelong health and psychological consequences. Immediately following the procedure, girls are at risk for severe pain, shock, bleeding, bacterial infection, and injury to nearby tissue. In the long term, girls and women who have suffered this procedure are at risk for recurrent bladder and urinary tract infections, cysts, infertility, and complications during intercourse and childbirth.

The threat of FGM is a reality for a significant number of girls in the United States. While many think of this as a custom that only occurs in foreign countries, research conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found in 2016 that approximately 513,000 women and girls in the U.S. had either been subjected to female genital mutilation or were at risk. In Kentucky alone, 1,845 women and girls are at risk.

Enacting such a law in Kentucky would have a significant deterrent effect and would send a strong message that this conduct is not acceptable in the state. I strongly urge you to support this legislation and take the necessary steps to move it forward in your leadership capacity as we can no longer rely on the existence of the federal law. The federal law was struck down recently based on the claim that it exceeded Congress' authority under the Commerce and the Necessary and Proper clauses of the U.S. Constitution.

Only 35 states have anti-FGM laws, with your help we can make Kentucky number 36. I therefore urge you to support and pass Senator Raque Adam's anti-FGM bill.