

Re: LD 745
Maine Legislature
Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Friday, May 5, 2017

Dear Senate Chair Rosen, House Chair Warren, Sponsor Sirocki, and Members of the Committee,

By way of introduction, I am Jared Bristol, Hebron, Maine. I am a retired middle school teacher and former Conservation Teacher of the Year for Maine, a U.S. Navy veteran of the Viet Nam war era, grandfather of 9, and the chapter leader of the Norway, Maine chapter of ACT! for America. Our organization numbers maybe 200 in Maine in 2 1/2 chapters, and over 500,000 nation-wide in pushing 1000 chapters.

It was ACT here in Maine that brought this bill before you. FGM has been federal law since 1996 and State law in 24 other States. We are very hopeful that Maine will be among those who set the right example in this matter. So goes Maine...

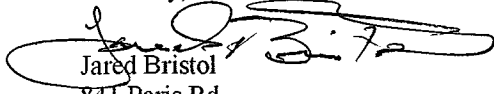
I would ask you to imagine you're 5 or 6 again maybe playing peacefully in your room. You are brought into the kitchen of your home by your elders; parents, aunts, possibly your grandmother. Whereupon you are held down on the kitchen table, stripped of your clothing, and without antiseptic or anesthetic medications a razor is used to slice your genitals, to basically cut them off. While this is a female cultural practice, for the sake of voting on this bill, gentlemen of the committee, imagine that your genitalia is sliced off. It's the equivalent to the excision of the clitoris. If you're a woman, imagine that subsequently your labia were sewn shut to allow only urine or menstrual fluid to flow, often with infection as a result. Sometimes bleeding to death. You are thusly "protected" from wanton desires of sexual pleasure in later life and thus you've become a better and more trustworthy wife to be.

Now, all of you, having imagined this just for a moment, please tell me how you can vote not to criminalize this practice with severe penalties, whether it's done here or arranging to have it done to any child anywhere else? Ever. I ask you, "How can you justify a vote of 'Ought Not to Pass'?"

Please see this very brief article prior to your workshop:

<https://www.jihadwatch.org/2017/03/georgia-muslim-used-scissors-to-perform-fgm-on-his-two-year-old-daughter>

Sincerely,


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ACT! for America, Norway Chapter