
HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONVENING A STUDY GROUP TO EXAMINE THE ISSUES OF MEDICAL
NECESSITY AND COST FACTORS FOR CONTINUED REIMBURSEMENT FOR
THE COST OF ROUTINE CIRCUMCISION FOR NEWBORN MALE INFANTS
IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, it is unclear why 1,200,000 circumcisions are
2 performed in the United States each year, more than any other
3 country, when this operation is considered a medically
4 unnecessary procedure; and

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6 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American
7 Academy of Family Practitioners, and the American Medical
8 Association, have published statements that do not support
9 routine neonatal circumcisions; and

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11 WHEREAS, although there are potential medical benefits such
12 as reduced incidence of urinary tract infections in circumcised
13 male infants under one year of age and reduced risk of penile
14 cancer, these risks are minimal, while potential adverse
15 complications of circumcision are more likely; and

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17 WHEREAS, parents who were not provided with adequate
18 information have chosen circumcision for their newborn sons
19 because it seems routine, when in fact, up to 85 percent of the
20 world's male population is not circumcised, and in the United
21 States the cost of routine circumcisions ranges from
22 \$150,000,000 to \$270,000,000 annually; and

23
24 WHEREAS, in some states such as Virginia, Medicaid still
25 pays for circumcisions when the cost-savings from circumcisions
26 that are not covered could have paid for many of an infant's
27 necessary immunizations; and



1 WHEREAS, sixteen states--Arizona, California, Florida,
2 Idaho, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri,
3 Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, and
4 Washington disallow Medicaid coverage for circumcision; and
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6 WHEREAS, in recent years, routine circumcision seems to be
7 declining in popularity; in California, only one-third of male
8 newborns are currently undergoing the procedure; and
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10 WHEREAS, newborn circumcision is not recommended by any
11 major American, foreign, or international medical organization,
12 is medically unnecessary and defined as an elective procedure by
13 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, and is not cost-
14 effective; and
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16 WHEREAS, private health insurance and Medicaid should only
17 pay for medically necessary care and not for elective care and
18 removing circumcision from health insurance and Medicaid
19 coverage could result in cost-savings to cover other necessary
20 Medicaid needs; now, therefore,
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
23 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
24 of 2006, that the Chairs and/or Vice-Chairs of the House and
25 Senate Health and/or Human Services committees convene a study
26 group to explore the issue of routine infant circumcision with
27 regard to health benefits, medical necessity, and the
28 possibility of healthcare cost-savings by eliminating
29 reimbursements for the procedure; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the convenors of the study
32 group are requested to invite representatives of the following
33 to participate:
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- 35 (1) The Pediatric Council of Hawaii;
- 36 (2) The Department of Human Services;
- 37 (3) The Department of Health; and
- 38 (4) Child health advocates from the community;
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- 40
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- 42

43 and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group is requested to
2 make recommendations on whether health insurers and Medicaid
3 should continue to reimburse the cost of non-medically necessary
4 routine circumcision for newborn male infants in Hawaii; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group is requested to
7 submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no
8 later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
9 of 2007; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services,
13 Executive Director of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy
14 of Pediatrics, Chair of the Pediatric Council of Hawaii,
15 President of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Hawaii
16 Chapter of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology,
17 and Director of Health, who is requested to distribute copies to
18 all health insurance providers in Hawaii.

