



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**SUPREME**  
*Moore Omokunde*

July 18, 2024

Dear Chairman McCaul and the Members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs,

In June, I had the pleasure of joining a Congressional Delegation with the House Democracy Partnership on a four country visit to the continent of Africa, where we visited Cabo Verde, Tanzania, Kenya and The Gambia. While I relished entering into dialogue with my African brothers about various issues impacting the continent, I was struck by the plight of women and girls experiencing Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the Gambia.

Although banned by former President Jammeh in 2015, FGM is still widely practiced in the Gambia. Today, some members of the Gambian government want to decriminalize FGM—a decision that would gravely endanger the health of women and girls throughout the country. On Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, the Gambian National Assembly struck down a bill that would have reversed the ban on FGM. While this is a historic human rights victory, we must continue to work to ensure women's bodily autonomy across the world.

All federally-elected officials must voice their opposition to repealing the FGM ban through every means available to them. All opponents of Female Genital Mutilation **\*must\*** lift their voices against those who seek to revoke the bodily autonomy rights of women. Depriving women of their agency to make decisions about their own bodies must never be accepted—not in Wisconsin, and not in The Gambia.

I am joined in this request by State Representative Samba Baldeh (D-48), a native of The Gambia, and State Senator LaTonya Johnson (D-6) who are deeply aware of the harm caused by FGM.

Sincerely,

Supreme Moore Omokunde  
State Representative  
17<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Samba Baldeh  
State Representative  
48<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

LaTonya Johnson  
State Senator  
6<sup>th</sup> Senate District