

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Bill promotes cruelty on
gender nonconformity**

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There are different shades of human skin color and there are different shades of gender. Gender variation is not a difficult idea to absorb, new as it may be to some.

House Bill 454, sponsored by some Republican lawmakers in the Ohio House, not only ignores this benign reality, it makes illegal many conversations and teachings about LGBT lives in schools and health clinics — and backs up these gag orders with severe punishments for professionals and insurance plans not obeying their views (“GOP lawmakers unveil bill prohibiting trans kids from beginning transition,” Oct. 20).

Why do parents seek help for a gender-nonconfirming child? To help them live and love in a healthy way from the beginning, of course. Before puberty.

This is not the business of the Ohio legislature, and its cruelty shames those who embrace it.

Dr. Douglas Van Auken, Lakewood

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