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# United Russia Backs Gay Ban

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Several United Russia State Duma deputies signaled Wednesday that there is support for a national ban on "homosexual propaganda," it was reported.

Two Duma deputies told Gazeta.ru that they, in principle, stood behind the national ban that has been suggested by Federation Council Speaker Valentina Matviyenko.

"[I] believe that it would be better to promote the healthy lifestyle that we have, and not some crazy, out-there orientation," said United Russia Duma Deputy Yekaterina Lakhova. "[A bill like this] would be very welcome."

A similar bill passed a first reading in the St. Petersburg Legislative Assembly last week, drawing heavy criticism from gay rights groups.

*(MT)*

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