



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Texas Supreme Court Asked to Consider Adult Entertainment Fee

AUSTIN, TX — This morning, and less than one week after the Third Court of Appeals made its ruling, the Texas Office of the Attorney General petitioned the Supreme Court of Texas to consider the constitutionality of Texas' adult entertainment fee.

The fee was passed in 2007 with overwhelming bipartisan support, but has been in court since the Texas Entertainment Association, a strip club membership organization, sued the state over the fee. Revenue from the fee is meant to fund sexual assault services across Texas.

By the state's own objective indicators, sexual assault is a major problem. Nearly 25 percent of Texas' incarcerated population has some form of sexual assault on their record. This statistic, which only tells about the people who get caught, is higher than robbery, murder and drug possession combined.

"We are thrilled that the momentum has shifted dramatically in our favor over the past week. Not only did the Court of Appeals reject the strip club industry's broader attack, but the Attorney General's office has moved with impressive speed to bring this critical issue before our state's highest court," said Torie Camp, Deputy Director of the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault. "We are hopeful that the Supreme Court will take the case and uphold the adult entertainment fee allowing sexual assault programs to receive the financial support that the Texas Legislature intended to address this serious problem in our state."

The Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) is the statewide organization committed to ending sexual violence in Texas. A non-profit educational and advocacy organization based in Austin, TAASA member agencies comprise a statewide network of more than 80 crisis centers that serve rural as well as metropolitan areas. Founded in 1982, the agency has a strong record of success in community education, youth outreach, law enforcement training, legislative advocacy, and curricula and materials development. Additional information about TAASA can be found at www.taasa.org.

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