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Today, we have filed a lawsuit against the Houston Texans on behalf of five former Houston Texans cheerleaders who have courageously come forward to protest how they were treated by the Houston Texans.

These women all had the same dream. They all aspired to be an integral part of the Houston Texans and they looked forward to promoting the team on Game day and throughout the year at public appearances, cheering, dancing and performing community service.

But their dreams were shattered by the reality of their lives as Houston Texans cheerleaders. They were harassed, intimidated and forced to live in fear that they could be cut from the team for the slightest infraction. They were told repeatedly that they were dispensable and disposable and that the surest way to be fired was to speak out.

To become a Houston Texans cheerleader is not an easy task. In order to win a slot each of our clients had to compete against more than a thousand other young women and prove that they had the talent, fortitude, discipline and attitude to stand out from the crowd and be chosen as one of the lucky few to come out on game day as a Houston Texans cheerleader.

The cheerleaders are an essential part of the team's success. They come out of the same tunnel as the players. They are dancing throughout the game cheering on the players and adding to the excitement. Some are going to the suites as eye candy because the Houston Texans have sold the Cheerleaders package to their high end customers.

Throughout the year cheerleaders are sent to make public appearances at various venues in Houston for which the team receives substantial appearance fees while the young women earn virtually nothing.

The Cheerleaders are told that they cannot speak to the players, who are their fellow teammates, even just to wish them luck.

They are told repeatedly that they can be replaced on a moment's notice and that they have no rights.

One of our clients was even assaulted by a fan. Rather than addressing this with the fan and ejecting him from the game, the victim was told that she should suck it up and act like nothing had happened. We have photos of the injury that she sustained on that occasion.

The Houston Texans organization is worth billions of dollars. It pays its players hundreds of millions of dollars a year while paying these hard working women \$7.25 an hour, less than they would earn if they worked at McDonalds, less than what the parking attendants at the stadium earn. Worse yet, they do not even pay them the \$7.25 an hour for all the time that they work.

The Houston Texans will need to explain to its fans and in Court why they value these women so little that they pay them minimum wage for maximum effort.

We know why- it is because they are women and there are always more that are ready to take their place. So what if these women work from sun up to sun down, having to prove themselves over and over again throughout the season, dancing before every game to show that they are worthy to have the honor of being a Houston Texans cheerleader. So what if they have to make sacrifices in terms of their job or schooling. After all, they are just women to be exploited. The cheerleaders are required to make at least 50 public appearances throughout the year- but they receive none of the monies that are paid to the Houston Texans for those appearances.

Enough is enough.

Women should not have to put up with being paid minimum wage while their male colleagues are paid millions of millions of dollars for their work. Surely, Mr. McNair and the Houston Texans can find it in their budget of hundreds of millions of dollars to pay these women a fair wage, not minimum wage. I say, stop penny pinching. Pay these women what they deserve and make sure you pay them for every minute that they work.

Everyone that supports this team while knowing how these cheerleaders are treated is complicit.

Suite owners-you should demand to know why the women that come to your suite for a few minutes each game only receive a pittance. Check how much you pay to have these cheerleaders come to your suite.

Players. Stand up for your co-workers. Do not stand silently by while these women who dance and work so hard to build enthusiasm and help you win are paid almost nothing while you earn millions of dollars a year for your effort.

Fans- when you buy your calendar and your cups and enjoy seeing these cheerleaders at the sidelines dancing and throughout the stadium- think about how these women are being cheated out of a living wage. You pay for your tickets. Demand change and fair treatment for the cheerleaders who enhance your experience.

Our clients have one thing in common in addition to their evident talent and ability. They are all women and I believe that they are being targeted and discriminated against because of their gender. There is no other explanation for why they are paid so little and not paid at all for a substantial portion of their work. Would the Houston Texans expect any of their male employees to work for nothing? Would they treat their male employees with the lack of respect that these women have had to endure? These are women who have competed to win their jobs, and have proven themselves over and over. They are used by the team to sell and market the brand and increase the revenue stream to the Houston Texans. How is it possible that cheerleaders are paid so little and not paid at all for much of their work?

It is only possible because the Houston Texans have continued to engage in severe and continuous sex discrimination and they have not been yet held accountable in a Court of Law.

We have filed this lawsuit today to seek compensation and fairness for these brave women because of what they have suffered.

However, their main goal is to seek change for the women that will come after them so that the Houston Texans will treat all its employees fairly and with respect.