

My name is Hannah Turnbow. My dream to be a Houston Texans Cheerleader came true in 2017. Being a Houston Texans cheerleader meant being part of something bigger than myself and playing a huge role in the community.

What I didn't know was being a cheerleader meant being exploited and mistreated and not being paid for my time.

The hours I put into appearances, keeping up with my fitness, practices, game days, taking time away from my family and school was worth more than \$7.25 hour. I, and my fellow cheerleaders, were treated as the lowest of the low. The Houston Texans were paid thousands of dollars to have us show up at appearances at locations all over Texas with no security, no transportation, and where our safety was not guaranteed. As an example of how I was not protected, I was attacked by a fan at a game leaving abrasions on my shoulder. My attacker was not approached or removed from the game, I was told to just suck it up.

I stand today with 4 of my cheer sisters who endured similar experiences and want to show girls and young women that we are more than pretty faces in a cheer uniform. We are a team to be reckoned with.